

Tories pledge to keep free health care as Heseltine rouses conference

Waldegrave hits at Labour NHS 'scare stories'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM Waldegrave launched the government's fightback in the political battle over the health service yesterday with promises of a patient's charter that would set out "ten commandments" for the NHS and a passionate denunciation of Labour's privatisation "scare stories".

The health secretary told the Conservative party conference that the charter, to be published soon, would enshrine the principle of free access to health care for everyone, regardless of means.

He accused Labour of being "truly sick" and of frightening vulnerable people with its claims that the Conservatives intended to privatise the health service. "Their scare is what is called in football a professional foul. They know it's wrong and think that it's worth it. What they are doing

is setting out quite deliberately to frighten some of the most vulnerable people in our society. They exploit the very people they pretend to care for. They do it callously and with calculation."

Mr Waldegrave made plain that reforms to modernise the health service would go ahead despite Labour's determination to make the NHS the centrepiece of its election campaign — "anything else would betray the patients for whom we stand". The patient's charter would aim to bring down waiting times and set higher management standards. It would create, in effect, the first written constitution for the NHS, its "ten commandments".

"The first and most important of those rights enshrines the very principle which is the NHS: equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of their means. That is the first and

greatest health service commandment."

Mr Waldegrave, still battling with the Treasury for his 1992-3 budget, countered polls showing that two-thirds of people still believe the Tories would privatise the NHS with others saying that 88 per cent of patients were satisfied with their service in hospital and 91 per cent satisfied with treatment by their GPs.

He also announced, as expected, an enquiry into health care provision in London, to lead to "careful modernisation of the capital's health service."

Mr Waldegrave's speech, showing a fire and passion not previously the hallmark of his political style, earned him a standing ovation and was held by colleagues to have removed question marks about his cabinet future. The prime minister later described it as brilliant.

Representatives believed he had got the Tories off the back foot on an issue that Labour has made its own with his mockery of Labour's spending promises and his resolute defence of the need to modernise the health service and ensure that it gave value for money.

But the British Medical Association and Labour said he had failed to address the underfunding of the health service. The Royal College of Nursing expressed similar concerns, but welcomed the commitment to the principle of free health care for all.

Mr Waldegrave's success came on a day that saw a suddenly more confident Tory party welcome back Michael Heseltine as a conference hero. Party managers' fears that Mr Heseltine, whose leadership challenge brought down Margaret Thatcher, could be given a cool reception had redoubled after Mrs Thatcher's rapturous reception on Wednesday. But after six years of being denied the conference platform, he was given an almost equally enthusiastic ovation after a typically bombastic speech in which he promised that when the Tories were given the signal by John Major they would "take the Labour party apart as never before".

Mr Heseltine pleased the conference by announcing legislation to deny councillors who refuse to pay the community charge the right to vote on local taxation. He asked: "What community ethic entitles Labour councillors to inflate local bills which they then refuse to pay themselves? It's worse than that, they then expect their constituents to pay on their behalf. To those councillors who won't pay their bills, I say, 'won't pay, can't vote'."

The success enjoyed by Mr Heseltine and Mrs Thatcher has increased the pressure on the prime minister to make a big impression with his first conference speech as leader today. Mr Major will be expected to set out a clear programme of his priorities for the party to launch them on the election campaign.

Cancelled operations, page 2
Tories at Blackpool, page 8
Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Their darling Heseltine: the environment secretary during his speech, which earned him a tumultuous ovation, at the Conservative conference yesterday

MPs launch enquiry into tunnel impact

By SHEILA GUNN AND MICHAEL DYNES

A PARLIAMENTARY enquiry will be launched later this month into the impact of the Channel tunnel because of MPs' doubts about the ability of British Rail to cope with passenger and freight traffic.

As MPs expressed their unhappiness, criticism over the government's approval of an eastern approach for the high-speed rail link into London via Stratford intensified last night when the long-term consequences of the decision began to unfold.

In addition to the environmental impact of the new route in the east, it emerged that freight trains formerly destined to run through south-west London could now be switched to the north London line through West Hampstead, Finchley, Kentish Town, Caledonian Road, Homerton, and Hackney-Wick.

The all-party Commons transport committee will set out to find what transport services and facilities will

the Channel tunnel's safety and policing arrangements. Its first session on Thursday will take evidence in Maidstone county hall, Kent, from the county's chief constable Paul Condon and Jeremy Beech, the chief fire officer.

Last night, ministers were accused of jeopardising Britain's economic prospects by delaying construction of the link, sacrificing the interests of commuters in London and the South-east to help safeguard a

Continued on page 22, col 3

Earlier reports, page 10

Yugoslav army to 'pull out' of Croatia

By GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Yugoslav federal army has apparently agreed to pull out of Croatia within the next month, Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, said last night.

He spoke after mediating the EC-sponsored peace talks for Yugoslavia between the leaders of Croatia, Serbia and the federal military. Mr van den Broek said that the withdrawal was to begin immediately and it would be matched by a simultaneous lifting of Croatian blockades around federal army barracks in the secessionist republic. The significance of the agreement was not immediately clear.

Blockades of Adriatic ports and federal army barracks in Croatia were already being lifted last night, European Community ceasefire monitors said. Simon Smith, the monitoring mission spokesman, said naval and land blockades along the Dalmatian coast, where seven ports had been besieged, were being removed. Croatian forces were also ending their siege of the army's Borongaj barracks in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

The apparent easing of the blockades came as President Gorbachev invited the presidents of Serbia and Croatia, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, to visit Moscow for talks on ending the fighting. Mr Gorbachev's initiative occurred as the EC's fragile Yugoslav peace conference brought the president of Croatia face-to-face with the Serbian general whose pilots tried to assassinate him in last Monday's bombing of Zagreb's presidential offices.

Pierce fighting was reported earlier yesterday in the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar. One hundred Yugoslav federal soldiers were killed, according to Croatian television and radio, although the federal army has denied sustaining any losses. Croatian television reported heavy shelling from Karavatska, tanks and mortar fire, while the radio reported fighting in the streets and an attack by "several hundreds of soldiers" during the afternoon.

However, this was before the ceasefire monitors' spokesman said the two sides were finally complying with a ceasefire agreement that they agreed on Tuesday.

WEEKEND TIMES

GRANDER OPERA



Earls Court moves to Birmingham next week, when Grace Bumbry stars in another spectacular *Aida*. Weekend Times follows the score tomorrow

MAESTRO'S MISTAKE



Only Leonard Bernstein could have begun the national anthem when the Queen was halfway down the stairs. Humphrey Burton recalls what happened next in Weekend Times

Saturday Review

PUNK SHOCKER



Vivienne Westwood, former fashion designer to the punks, revels in unpopular ideas, as she explains in tomorrow's Saturday Review

NORMAN'S WISDOM



George Bush? Still a wimp, argues Norman Mailer, although even the great carouser has given up drinking, as he tells the Saturday Review

TODAY IN THE TIMES

TALKING POINT



When the Duke of Devonshire hosts a summit at Chatsworth, he likes to make sure the surroundings are comfortable. The Kate Muir interview Page 14

MOVING IMAGE



Margaret Major — or is it John Thatcher? — sounds like a dream ticket for the Tories. What would Harold Callaghan say? Page 22

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Wannabee streetwise? The answer is in Brewer's

By PHILIP HOWARD, LITERARY EDITOR

IS YOUR slurb zoo daddy a wannabee kidult? Pardon me for living. Which being translated means, roughly, does your divorced father (from the slum-suburbs) who has access to his children, and typically takes them on a Sunday outing to the zoo when they visit him, want to be a kid-adult who is a couch potato that never grows up.

The translation is provided by the first completely new edition of *Brewer's Dictionary of Twentieth Century Phrase and Fable* since 1870, published next Thursday and reviewed in *The Times* next week.

Where did the Prince of Wales catch his monstrous carbuncle? Why is an Archer worth £2,000? These are puzzling questions, but not beyond all conjecture. The answers or conjectures

to most of them (often right) are contained in the dictionary.

An Archer is London street slang for £2,000, after Jeffrey Archer, pop page-turner scribe, playwright, and former deputy chairman of the Conservative party, who resigned from this last post after being accused of paying a prostitute, Monica Coughlan, hush money of £2,000, and scooped a vast sum of money from newspapers in damages. An Archer is sometimes also called a Jeffrey.

Carbuncular has become a yahoo populist epithet to slag off architecture that is deemed ugly or offensive, ever since in 1984 the Prince of Wales described the proposed modern extension to the National Gallery as being, "like a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend".

The new, trendy *Brewer* is a

revolution. Out go most of the old literary, and biblical, and historical references. In comes the street slang of the Nineties. Brit and American. The etymologies are still dodgy and adventurous, as all folk etymologies of slang are always going to be. *Brewer* used to be the book you gave your elderly maiden aunt for Christmas. Not any more, it ain't.

Lots of the new slang is distinctly raunchy and in terribly bad taste, from Manhattan feels to dickless Traceys. Where the old editions of *Brewer* had pages of horses and dogs in myth and literature and heraldry, the latest one has horse as slang for heroin, and dog's breath as rude slang for a person who is heartily disliked.

Brewer's has always been the source of last resort for puzzling questions that are not answered in conventional dictionaries and encyclopedias. It has

also been a friend in need for hacks in a hurry with a hopeless piece, desperate for a lateral reference and esoteric knowledge to swank with.

The new edition confines itself to the words and phrases of our bustling 20th-century, and deliberately excludes those that came before. Its 8,000 entries are accordingly strong on our contemporary specialities, such as advertising slogans, sex, scandals, television jingles, and technology, from Blake Case to Juno Space Mission; and notably weak on the roots of our culture in literature, proverb, and catchphrase.

It will be an invaluable source for scribblers and fans of trivial pursuit knowledge. But they had better get a previous, old-fashioned edition as well, if they want to know the quirks of language that came before this century.

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I am not a political animal, says head of health service enquiry



Sir Bernard: not told to toe Tory party line

By PETER DAVENPORT
THE man chosen to lead the government's commission of enquiry into London's hospitals insisted yesterday that politics would play no part in his deliberations.

Sir Bernard Tomlinson, aged 71, the former chairman of the Northern regional health authority and emeritus professor of pathology at Newcastle University, said: "I am not a political animal. I am solely interested in the NHS. If there had been any suggestion that I was to follow any political line in this enquiry, I simply would not have taken the job on. No such suggestion has been made. Nor would I expect it to be made."

The Labour party has already condemned the enquiry as a government admission of failing

to predict the detrimental effects of an internal market on hospital services in the city.

Yesterday Sir Bernard added: "I have no political affiliations myself, although I was campaigning for a national health service before Labour's health spokesman, Robin Cook, was born."

Sir Bernard was appointed chairman of the Northern regional health authority in 1985 by the then social services secretary, Norman Fowler. The Labour party is expected to use the decision to make him head of the commission of enquiry as evidence to support their campaign about the proliferation of Tory supporters in key health service posts.

Part of Sir Bernard's brief is to investigate self-governing plans by four main London teaching

hospitals: St Mary's, St Bartholomew's, St Thomas and King's College, which, it is said, are now being frozen pending the deliberations of the enquiry.

He said: "My terms of reference are to advise the secretaries of state for health and education and science on present health care provision in inner London within the framework of the reformed NHS. It is to include the balance between the acute and primary health services, the organisation and provision of undergraduate teaching, post graduate medical education and research and development."

The health department said that the enquiry would also consider the health needs of London's resident and day-time population, the emerging purchasing plans of health authorities and their likely

impact on inner London hospitals, future development in the provision of acute and primary care and the need to maintain quality patient care with high standards of medical teaching, research and development.

Sir Bernard said he believed that London had been singled out as a special case for an enquiry, when many other, provincial hospitals were also facing critical decisions over their futures, because it had the largest problems in having many hospitals and medical centres.

Sir Bernard responded to Labour claims that the government was planning a "back door" privatisation of the NHS. "I have never seen any evidence of that at all," he said.

Sir Bernard, who headed the team which disciplined two

paediatricians after the Cleveland child sex abuse affair, will be supported on the enquiry by a team of experts including Sir Robert Kilpatrick, president of the General Medical Council, Professor Michael Bond, vice-principal of Glasgow University, Pearl Brown, primary service manager with Riverside health authority and Dr Mollie McBride, a London GP.

He will talk to a wide range of concerned organisations including health authorities, funding bodies, London University, the medical schools and the teaching hospitals.

Dr Baker said he had not resigned nor been asked to leave his post and that he still remained as chief executive of the trust, which includes the city's Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital.

announcements for 300 workers earlier this year, admitted, however, that he was seeking a new job.

Dr Baker said he had not resigned nor been asked to leave his post and that he still remained as chief executive of the trust, which includes the city's Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital.

He said he was discussing a new post as a consultant in public health medicine with Yorkshire regional health authority. "I have had informal discussions but no job offer has been made," he said.

Dr Baker faced detailed questioning about the business plan of the trust when he appeared before the Commons all party select committee on health earlier this year.

Diary, page 16

Hospitals ridicule Labour data on cancelled operations

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities have no idea how many operations they have cancelled this year. Although all regional health authorities have to submit a plethora of information about operations carried out to the health department every three months, they do not have to collect data on how many operations they postponed.

The frank admission by several regional health authorities telephoned by *The Times* yesterday follows a survey by Harriet Harman, Opposition spokeswoman for health, which alleged that almost 300,000 operations were cancelled last year. The claim was made ten hours before William Waldegrave's speech in Blackpool.

The regions contacted were baffled as to how Ms Harman reached that conclusion based on the information they had given her. Ms Harman said

that she and her researchers had contacted all the 14 regions to get a breakdown of cancelled operations for each region.

What the regions gave her, however, was the number of "cancelled operating sessions". These sessions could cover between one and, say, eight patients depending on the complexity of the operation. Ms Harman chose the average and multiplied each cancelled session by that number.

In a note to editors attached to the press release sent out on Wednesday night, Ms Harman admits: "The figures are calculated by dividing the number of cases in scheduled operating sessions by the number of scheduled sessions held to get an average number of cases per session. This is then multiplied by the number of cancelled sessions to give a

figure for the number of cancelled operations."

The regions said Ms Harman had not taken into account the fact that if a theatre session is cancelled it does not mean that patients have their operations cancelled. Some patients might get treated on a different list by a different doctor. Others might get treated in the afternoon or the next day.

"The survey falls down because cancelled sessions do not mean cancelled operations," said a spokeswoman for North West Thames regional health authority.

"Sessions are planned months in advance because theatre time is so valuable that it has to be allocated - usually to a named consultant. However, if these are changed for any reason - because the consultant is going on holiday, or on a training course and swaps with another doctor, or if we have an emergency session - then the session is recorded as cancelled."

Sometimes no patients turned up or consultants had such a light list that they combined with a colleague. Again the records clerk pens in "cancelled" behind the session, even though no patients were affected.

North West Thames says that it cancelled 3,410 sessions last year out of 42,873, but has no idea how many patients had their operations deferred. "Sometimes patients will turn up and a consultant is sick, or we do not have enough staff," said the spokeswoman, but could provide no figures in support. "We have to collect hundreds of bits of information already. If we had to collect any more the NHS would have no time to treat any patients."

Mersey region was outraged that Ms Harman had accused it of cancelling 15,288 operations. The region, which prides itself on making dramatic inroads into its waiting lists said: "We cannot understand Harriet Harman's figures. The Mersey region carried out 170,000 operations last year. We did not cancel more than a handful. We are in the middle of election campaigning and politicians of all parties are going to make statements about health. But these figures are not correct, are worrying for patients and undermine staff morale."

Leading article, page 17

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Face lift: Seianti, a lady of some importance, is recalled 2,200 years after her death

Group 4 tipped for jail contract

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

GROUP 4, one of Britain's largest security firms, is the front-runner to become the first company this century to manage a British prison, it emerged yesterday.

Home Office sources said Group 4 was regarded as highly likely to win the work, with the contract due to be signed over the next week.

Nine companies tendered for the contract to run the Wolds, a 300-bed remand centre on Humberside which ministers hope will be the standard bearer for a wave of private prisons over the next ten years. Group 4, which in

1989 won the contract to run the Home Office's immigration detention centre at Harmondsworth at Heathrow airport, is understood to have satisfied government demands that the jail should have a model regime, affording prisoners substantially longer periods out of their cells than would be normal in a state-managed remand centre.

The combine, which employs about 8,000 staff, many in uniformed guarding services, declined last night to comment other than to say that "detailed negotiations

with the department were continuing. Its tender was submitted by Group 4 Remand Services, a firm set up specifically to bid for the Wolds contract.

It is unlikely that the firm will recruit many, if any, staff now working in the state prison sector to work at the Wolds, although employees could not be prevented from joining trade unions.

Ministers hope the Prison Officers' Association, a union deeply distrusted by government, will be snubbed. The jail opens next April.

The contracting out of the jail is being opposed by the Prison Governors' Association and the nine unions with members in state jails. They have moral objections to commercially-run jails and believe that standards are likely to be lower than in the

public sector. A joint union campaign is being launched on Monday to highlight the alleged dangers of the Wolds experiment.

Fresh evidence of the government's interest in private prisons came on Wednesday when Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, told the Conservative conference in Blackpool that the Wolds was not intended to be a one-off.

In May, Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister of state responsible for prisons, toured a privately-run prison in California in an effort to improve the government's knowledge of how similar schemes are worked abroad.

Most British jails were run for profit before the passage in 1878 of the Prison Reform Act which brought all penal institutions in the country under state control.

Etruscan woman to take on new life

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE skull behind the enigmatic smile of an Etruscan sarcophagus will be revealed at the British Museum tomorrow.

Scientists have reconstructed the life of Seianti Hanunia Tiesnasa, who lived 2,200 years ago. She was a woman of some importance in the second century BC, living near the Cladium made famous by the poet Horace when he kept the bridge at Rome.

Although long forgotten, Seianti's name and likeness have survived the generations, preserved on her magnificent painted sarcophagus. Long a favourite with schoolchildren, it shows her reclining in a tunic and tiara, her mantle over her head and held back by one hand as she looks at her mortal image in a mirror. The mirror itself was found when the tomb was opened.

She died at the advanced age, for the time, of around 80, and, apart from the mirror, was buried with her intimate possessions: a lidded box, flask and oval vessel were hung from nails in the walls of her tomb.

Archaeologists will detail the context of her life and death; dental and anatomical experts will discuss the vicissitudes which she underwent in her four score years; and a forensic scientist will present what the museum calls a remarkable reconstruction of her face, based on careful analysis of the muscle attachments on the bones of the skull.

For £10 the public can attend and hear the life history of an Etruscan lady.

Pilot error blamed for helicopter accident

THE danger involved in attempting to land a helicopter on a North Sea oil rig was made graphically clear yesterday in an official report into the crash of a Sikorsky S61 which struck a crane while attempting to put down on a platform off Shetland last year (Harvey Elliott writes).

Six of the 13 people on board died as the tail rotor of the helicopter smashed into the crane, tipping the aircraft into the sea.

The Civil Aviation Authority had first ruled that, because of its size, the Sikorsky could not land on any helipad which had a diameter less than 73ft. It then amended that rule in 1982 to accommodate larger helicopters, provided it was subject to a number of restrictions. The diameter of the pad on the Brent Spar field was 65ft.

The report, issued by the transport department's accident investigation branch, says that the accident happened because the pilot positioned the helicopter in an "inexplicable" way.

Papers cut jobs

News International confirmed last night that about 120 staff engaged in photo composition will be made redundant as electronic page make-up is introduced to all its titles over the next 12 months. Meanwhile, post-press distribution of newspapers at the plant would be contracted out, the company said, meaning the loss of a further 70 jobs. A spokesman said that all those affected were being interviewed and assessed individually. The company denied a claim by the electronics union Epsu that delays in production were due to staff redundancies, and said delays were minimal.

Protestant killed

Republican gunmen shot dead a Protestant in a public house in Belfast yesterday. Harry Ward, aged 42, was murdered after being singled out as he drank in the Diamond Jubilee bar at Peters Hill in the Loyalist Shankill Road area of the city. He tried to flee but two gunmen chased him into the pub's rear by off-licence and shot him at least six times at close range. The killers escaped in a waiting car.

Crash verdict

The ten people who were killed when more than 50 vehicles collided in fog on the M4 died accidentally, a coroner ruled yesterday. Charles Hoile, the West Berkshire coroner, recorded his verdict after hearing four days of evidence at Newbury. Many of the victims died when their cars ignited. Four drivers are to be prosecuted after the crash last March.

Phew, but not a scorcher

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Indian summer could be coming a little late this year. Temperatures in London reached a pleasant 20°C (68°F) yesterday, but that is by no means exceptional for the time of year.

In 1921, a year which put in a scorching finish, the same day, October 10, provided a temperature of 25.6°C (78°F) at Kensington Palace.

The 1921 records for October were broken as recently as 1985, when, on October 1, 29.5°C (85°F) was recorded at Waddon, in Croydon, south London. On the same day, other places in the South and East Anglia basked in temperatures well into the 80s Fahrenheit.

Habitually, the tabloid press hails the advent of an Indian summer as soon as hard news runs out after the demise of the August "silly season". This means many Indian summers have been celebrated in print in the first week of September.

This year, though, journalists held off until yesterday, when it was confidently predicted that the Indian summer would fall this weekend. The prediction looks likely to be wrong.

In fact, the London Weather Centre said yesterday that today was likely to be the hottest of a series of warm days ahead. However, temperatures are unlikely to rise above 22°C (72°F), and those values will be achieved only in favoured and sheltered places. Thereafter, the weather will continue warm, but with temperatures moderating to about 18°C (64.5°F).

This does not constitute an Indian summer, though, because the weather will be cloudy and humid, with pulses of rain on the southerly winds from France. A proper Indian summer has cloudless skies and dry conditions.

The clichéd phrase, in

truth, has nothing to do with British weather at all. It is of American origin and meant fine, sunny and dry, though sometimes hazy, weather in late autumn. It was called an Indian summer because such conditions were more frequent in the Indian territories to the west than on the east coast originally inhabited by the white population.

The man at the London Weather Centre yesterday did not know that, but there is more.

A late hot spell in Britain should properly be called not an Indian summer but a St Martin's summer, in honour of the patron saint of innkeepers and reformed drunkards, St Martin of Tours. His saint's day happens to coincide with the Feast of Bacchus, hence his supposed interest in alcohol abusers, but it does not come round until November 11.

Get your thermometers out again then.



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Some things are too good for words

Hospital criticised over mental patient who killed man

By RONALD FAUX

THE treatment of a mental patient who stabbed a man to death in the street five days after being allowed to discharge himself from Garlands hospital, Carlisle, was criticised in an enquiry report published yesterday by East Cumbria health authority.

Standards of supervision and organisation at the hospital were described as less than satisfactory. A decision by a consultant psychiatrist that there were no grounds to detain the patient, Stephen Findley, aged 22, of Brampton, Cumbria, who had been described as extremely dangerous surprised the committee.

The case comes only a week after Mr Justice Turner called for an enquiry into why Carol Ann Barrett, aged 24, a dangerously psychotic woman who stabbed Emma Brodie, aged 11, to death with a carving knife in Doncaster, south Yorkshire, had been released two days earlier from a mental hospital where she had been held after an attack on a girl.

Mr Findley was arrested by Northumbria police on November 19 after a fracas in a Sunderland nightclub. He was found to have a loaded air

pistol and two knives. He was examined by a police surgeon and consultant psychiatrist from the Cherry Knowle hospital, Sunderland, and detained under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act. Seven days later he was transferred to Garlands hospital and admitted into an intensive care unit for patients with disturbed behaviour.

The enquiry report said that Mr Findley had appealed against his detention and a hearing of the mental health review tribunal was arranged six days after his transfer to Garlands. His consultant psychiatrist had implied in a report to the tribunal that the detention order should continue and stated that Mr Findley had shown significant improvement.

The consultant psychiatrist was not present at the tribunal hearing because it coincided with an outpatient clinic but a further report by a social worker concluded that a full assessment of Mr Findley had not been possible and that there had been evidence of aggressive behaviour. The tribunal directed that he should remain in detention.

On December 3 the consultant psychiatrist, who was not

named in the report, had concluded that Mr Findley showed no aggressive tendencies while in hospital, was responding to treatment. "He did not consider him to be a risk to others and considered that there were facilities for his treatment outside the hospital. He concluded that in his view the criteria for further detention under the Mental Health Act could not be made once the 28-day period of the Section 2 order had passed," the report said.

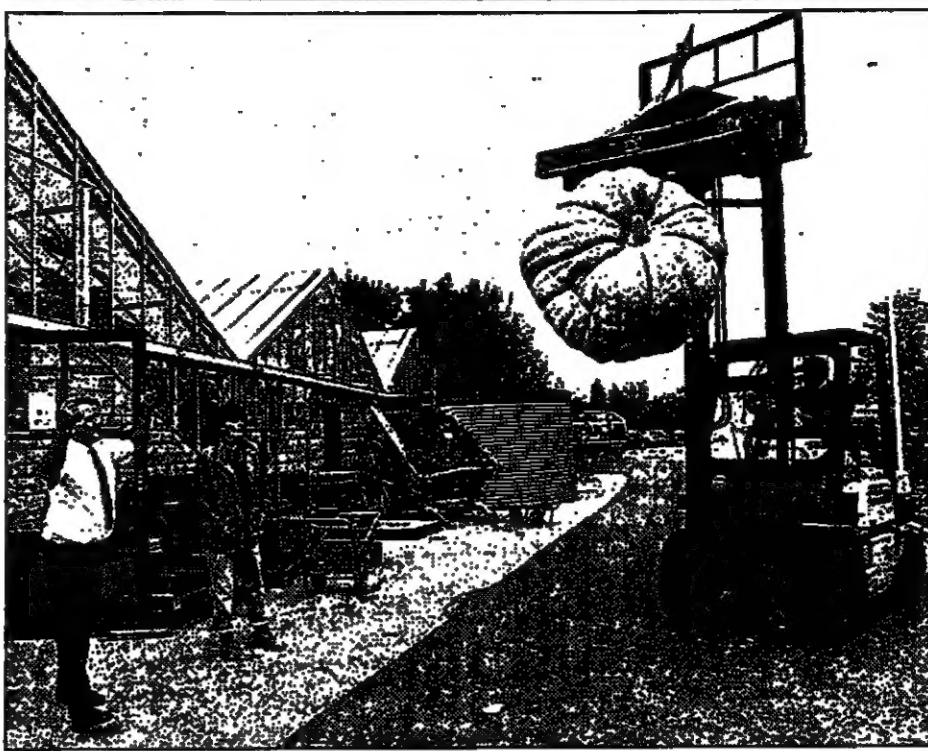
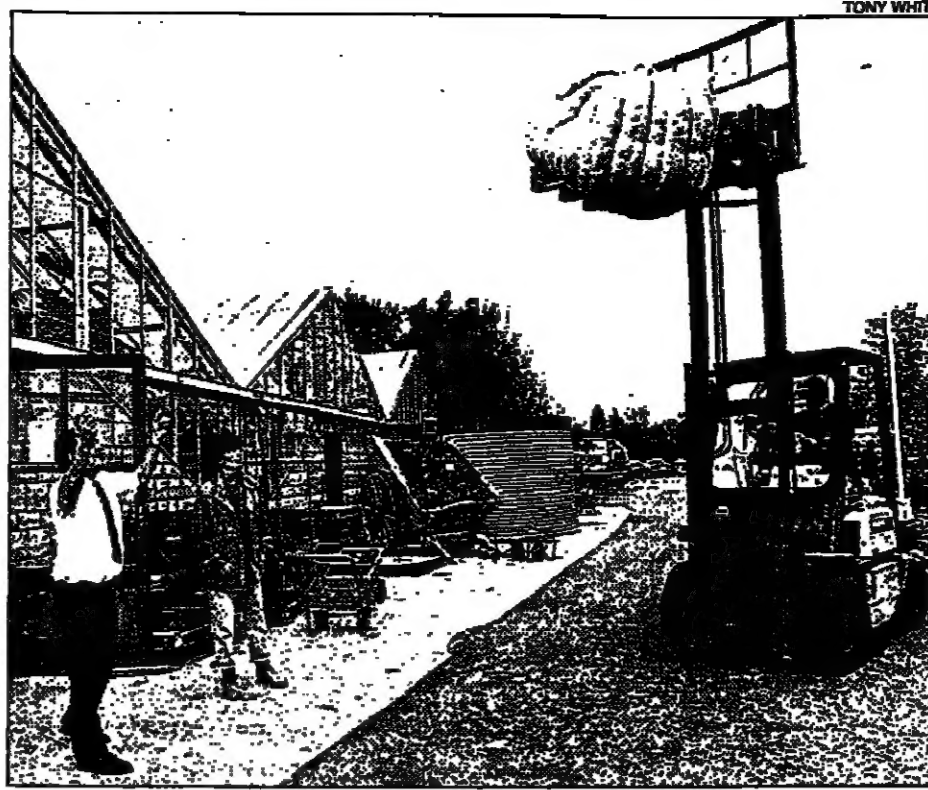
Two days before the order ran out nursing staff felt that Mr Findley was still not well and his parents were given advice by a nurse on how to handle him at home. On December 17 the registrar spent a long time trying to persuade him to stay in hospital and on the day of his release the consultant psychiatrist was still of the view that a further detention order could not be made even though he would have preferred Mr Findley to remain in hospital.

"There is no evidence that the nursing staff on the acute assessment ward disagreed with this view and they noted that he had not appeared a danger to others and was never aggressive on the ward. Nevertheless they considered he remained ill and needed further treatment," the report said.

Five days later Mr Findley stabbed Oliver Dickens, aged 67, of Morton Park, Carlisle, to death. He was found guilty of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. He was committed without limit of time to Ashworth hospital, Liverpool.

The trial judge expressed anxiety that Mr Findley had not been charged after the night-club incident and the report found a conflict of evidence as to whether Northumbria police had contacted Cherry Knowle hospital. It said the police should have made more than one verbal request if they wished to keep track of his movements. "If the police had been informed at the point of his discharge from Garlands hospital this would not necessarily have resulted in a remand in custody."

The enquiry said: "In view of the written evidence, especially that from the Cherry Knowle hospital case notes, we are surprised that a firm decision that there would be no grounds to detain Mr Findley further on expiry of his detention under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act was taken at such an early stage during his period of assessment and treatment at Garlands hospital."



Pie in the sky: Bernard Lavery's pride turns to horror as his hopes for the Baytree Nursery giant vegetable contest come down to earth. The forklift foxes pupped his 500lb pumpkin yesterday on the eve of the show at Weston, Lincolnshire

Publicans take their protest to Blackpool

There were no toasts to the health of the Tory party conference from a bevy of mine hosts fearing last orders for thousands of jobs, reports Tony Dawe

THE talk was of martyrs and of a dying industry as 3,000 people marched on the Tory party conference at Blackpool yesterday.

Speakers described the government as a disgrace and accused it of putting thousands of families on the streets. To the Blackpool day-trippers, it must have seemed like another Militant rally. But until a year or so ago, almost all those taking part would have supported the Conservative party.

They were publicans who believe their livelihoods are threatened because of the way the government is implementing a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the brewing industry. They converged on Blackpool to protest at the loss of their pubs or at rent rises which will force up the price of a pint to £2 or more. They already had a martyr, in the shape of Josie Williams, organiser of one of the first protest rallies, who was evicted from the Beaufort pub, Ebbw Vale, at a court hearing on Wednesday.

Neil Breeze, of the National Licensed Victuallers' Association, which organised the march, told the crowd: "We are here to show the people of Britain and the government of Britain the misery, uncertainty and despair that thousands of licencees now find themselves in."

The main aims of the government's reforms were to free 11,000 pubs from the ties of the top six brewers by the end of next year and to improve conditions for tenants. "What is happening is the reverse of what was anticipated," Alan Bartlett, the association president, said. "By their actions, brewers have twisted the legislation to suit themselves and have seized back lucrative houses for management, robbing tenants of their rewards, and putting them on the streets."

However, the marchers may have failed to impress many MPs and brewers, who claim that "whingeing" is second nature to landlords. They believe that some pub closures are inevitable and that many tenants are being offered greater security in deals which will prove attractive in the long term.

Few landlords would agree. Shuni Davies, tenant of the Exhibition, in York, said: "We have spent more than £150,000 of our own money over the past five years in turning a run-down property into a successful pub. The brewery now wants us to pay four times as much rent."

Don Dittane of the Spanish

Galleon, in Greenwich, south-east London, said he had spent £85,000 refurbishing his pub. "Despite all my efforts in improving the place, I have been given notice to quit by January 6 next year unless I sign a new deal which could mean putting the price of a pint up to £3 if I was going to survive," he said.

Terry Daly, of the Old Grey Mare, in York, appeared to be facing the biggest rise of any on the march. He is expected to pay £30,000 a year instead of £43,000.

At the end of the march, the publicans cheered an association official who demanded that the government rethink its policies. "They showed more compassion to rot-wellers earlier this year than they have done to the publicans," Roy Peddie said.

Leading article, page 17

Cocktails offer bars a tonic

By DAVID YOUNG

A CURE for the financial ill health of the British pub is being offered in a test tube, gourmet mushroom soup in hospital-style "bladder sacks" and Chinese food to be nibbled at the bar as an alternative to crisps.

The ideas are on show at the Innovate '91 trade show at Wembley, north London, this week. The most spectacular, and colourful, has been the launch of Testi-Cool: a range of ready-to-drink cocktails packed in plastic test tubes, and offering publicans a profit margin of well over 100 per cent. The drinks, which contain gin, vodka, whisky and rum, and often all four, are bright and fluorescent, with a powerful kick.

They have been brought to Britain by Graham Worley, a Brighton bar owner, who has the UK rights. They are already a top seller in Australia.

Interest has also been shown in a range of Chinese dim-sum snacks which can be prepared behind the bar and which the makers hope will be offered at the pub to those who normally stop on the way home for a Chinese takeaway.

Among the more traditional

House sellers give redundancy cover

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE sellers are being invited to insure their buyers' mortgage repayments for a year against redundancy.

The scheme by GA Property Services to help the recovery of a housing market depressed by fears of unemployment is being offered nationally through the chain's 450 offices. The cost of the insurance, devised by its parent company General Accident, will be around £130.

GA said that the scheme was popular with buyer and seller. Fear of unemployment was noted by the Halifax Building Society in its latest house price survey. Agents within the Halifax Property Services network reported that the uncertainty created by unemployment worries had offset the benefit of lower mortgage rates.

The cover under the scheme comes into effect after the first 56 days of unemployment and will pay up to £1,000 a month for 12 months. Buyers will also be offered accident and sickness cover at a discounted rate, and once initial cover ceases they can opt for full

unemployment, accident and sickness insurance to continue their cover.

Linked to the scheme is a 24 hour helpline to help people over the impact of losing their jobs and get them back to work as soon as possible.

GA's initiative, which the company says is the first to be offered nationally by an estate agent, is the latest attempt to spur the property market into activity.

Hunting Gate Homes, one of the first to introduce a redundancy protection scheme, has now launched a package that will provide mortgage cover for up to three years and an extra £100-£200 to cover other household bills for up to a year.

Help is offered to owners in arrears or facing repossession by Home Services of Sheffield. This allows householders to remain in their home, having sold it at a discounted price, but with possession deferred for up to 18 months. The company says the extra time allows many householders to sort out their financial difficulties.

Child abuse expert call was ignored

By KERRY GILL

A SUGGESTION that an independent child psychologist should study allegations of sexual abuse by three Orkney children was not followed up, a senior social worker said yesterday.

Susan Millar, the social worker behind the taking into care of nine children last February, told the judicial enquiry that a detective superintendent from Orkney had suggested that a psychologist should be asked to assess drawings by the children, aged seven, eight and nine from a family known as W, the day after the allegations emerged. The proposal was dismissed.

The nine children were taken into care after allegations by three children from another family. The allegations claimed that the children had been sexually abused while parents stood in a circle on the Orkney island of South Ronaldsay and clapped, danced and drank wine.

Mrs Millar defended the social work department's decision not to employ a child psychologist. She said that she and Paul Lee, the social work director, believed they had enough evidence already. They were convinced by the W family's allegations.

The enquiry was told earlier that references to puppies and sheep looking like "maggots in a field" by children in care caused social workers concern. Mrs Millar said the children from the W family referred to a number of animals. It was reported that one child had apparently tried to mate a "fluffy puppy" toy to one of their foster parent's Jack Russell terriers.

The enquiry continues today.

Rodin bronzes feared lost in fire

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND AND STEWART TENDLER

BRONZES by Rodin, Bourdelle and other 20th century masters were among a £5 million group of 230 works stored in the west London art warehouse devastated by a fire earlier this week, it was disclosed yesterday.

As police scientists continued investigations at the scene of the fire in Feltham, near Heathrow airport, a spokesman for James Bourlet and Son, the art packer and transporter, confirmed that part of the Stuyvesant collection of South African art, worth £50 million, was stored in the warehouse.

The list includes important bronzes such as Rodin's life-sized *Burghers of Calais* and *Statue of Balzac with a Cloak*. It also mentions *Washer*

by Renoir, and a large bronze head by Maillol, as well as Bourdelle's *Large Torso with Fruit* and Giacometti's *Portrait of his Father and Mother*. Many had been seen in touring exhibitions to Soweto, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Last night, staff at the Museum of Modern Art confirmed that they were awaiting the delivery of 15 works by the 20th century German sculptors Ernst Barlach and Käthe Kollwitz.

"It felt like losing your children," Mr Rupert is quoted as saying. He said that

the total value of works in the fire was 24 million pounds (about £5 million). He did not know how many of the works had been stored in the strongroom, away from the worst of the fire. He said the art works, some of which were in transit between Cyprus and Hong Kong, were covered by insurance.

Meanwhile, as the police continued to refuse entry to members of the insurance industry while they continued their arson investigations, the art market speculated about the damage sustained. "I'm still waiting to get in," said Ian Fairley, of Graham Miller Group, who includes Sotheby's among his clients.

He had been relieved to hear that valuable paintings in his care, by Matisse and Robert Delaunay, had been found safe in the strongroom.

"It is a miracle that anything was saved," he said as he recounted how staff and passers-by waded through piles of black muck formed from ash and plaster on the night of the fire to retrieve objects, assisted by the light from their car headlights.

Following the publication in *The Times* yesterday of a photograph of some salvaged works, one collector had rung from America asking whether the bronze sculpture on the right could be his. Degas, Mr Fairley said. Such was the mentality of collectors, and the insurance industry, he said, that most of what took place on Monday night would be kept secret.

At present, no clear motive for the fire is known, should it prove to be arson. There is speculation that it could have been started to conceal a burglary.

Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound*, said yesterday that although the post was ceremonial, some knowledge of horsemanship was essential. "It helps to know which end the oats go in, especially as the monarch is one of the greatest enthusiasts in the country for all things equestrian."

Master of the Horse resigns

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Earl of Westmorland, aged 67, has resigned his ceremonial position as Master of the Horse, the third most senior post in the Queen's Household after the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward. It was announced yesterday. He will be replaced by Lord Somerleyton, a lord in waiting to the Queen.

Lord Westmorland said from his Gloucestershire home yesterday that he was resigning his position, which he took over from the late Duke of Beaufort in 1978, because of ill-health. He has become increasingly troubled with asthma.

Master of the Horse is one of the oldest existing offices in the land, the first incumbent, John Russell, having been appointed by Richard II in 1391 at a time when there was serious work to be done in preparing the sovereign's mounts for both ceremony and battle. Nowadays the post



Lord Westmorland: giving up through ill-health

is largely honorary.

The Master has, doubtless, to his relief, no responsibility for the Queen's racehorses, but is nominally in charge of the Royal Mews where the ceremonial horses, carriages and royal cars are kept. Day-to-day running, however, is in the care of the Crown Equerry, currently Lt-Col Seymour Gilbert-Denham, a former

commanding officer of the Household Cavalry and therefore a man of substantial equestrian knowledge.

Lord Westmorland, who was briefly chairman of Sotheby's and is still director of an American coal company and a Canadian life insurance office, is a former president of the British Horse Society. His successor Lord Somerleyton, who has an Eton and Coldstream Guards background, is a former East Suffolk district councillor and is a farmer and landowner at Somerleyton Hall, near Lowestoft. He is an occasional rider to hounds.

Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound*, said yesterday that although the post was ceremonial, some knowledge of horsemanship was essential. "It helps to know which end the oats go in, especially as the monarch is one of the greatest enthusiasts in the country for all things equestrian."

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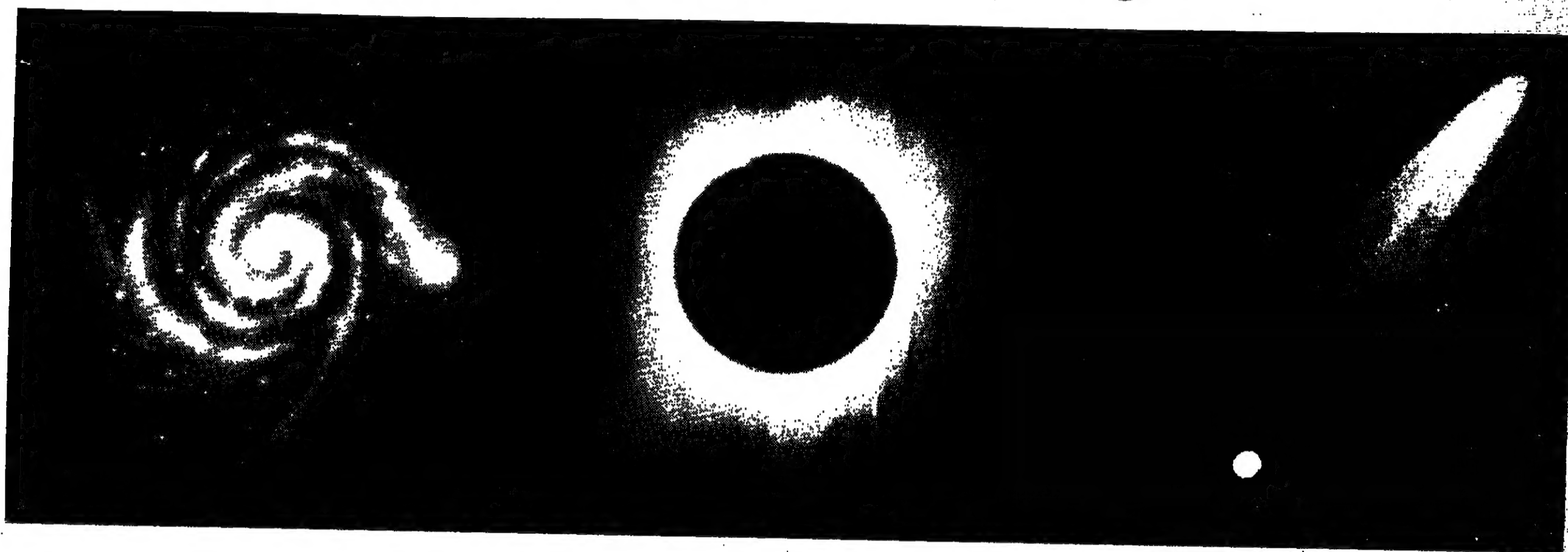
But you'll have to hurry. All good things have to come to an end, and these offers are only available until Saturday 19th October.

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Lack of care blamed for suicide at Brixton jail

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office suicide prevention guidelines should be implemented immediately at Brixton prison, a coroner said yesterday after a jury concluded that lack of care had led to the hanging of an inmate at the south London jail.

The lack of care verdict was returned by a majority of ten to one by jurors at Southwark coroner's court. It was the third verdict of its kind to be delivered this year after the suicide of a prisoner at Brixton, which has one of the worst suicide records in the jail network.

Patrick O'Grady, aged 24, an acute depressive, was found hanging by a bedsheet from a cell window after he had been kept alone for a month in a "strip cell" at the jail's notorious psychiatric F wing. He had been examined by eight doctors during his stay at Brixton but the consensus had been that he should not be moved to the hospital ward where he would have had more company and greater freedom of movement.

Relatives who visited O'Grady a few days before his death were shocked by his appearance. He was trussed in a strait-jacket, had cuts on his wrists, dried blood on his face and numerous cigarette burns on his legs.

O'Grady, unemployed, of Bayswater, west London, was the 14th inmate to kill himself at Brixton in the past two years. He had suspended himself from steel meshing that had been placed over the cell window bars to prevent suicides.

Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, said that Home Office guidelines disseminated last December to reduce the risk of prisoner suicides had not been properly introduced at the jail, which dates from Victorian times. It was essential these were implemented immediately, he said.

He added: "There should be a review of safety, especially regarding suicides, and of the window grilles used. These grilles can, to our surprise, be used to hang oneself."

Sir Montague also called for better liaison between doctors who had examined the same inmates; for all staff to be trained to use resuscitation equipment; and for medical records on prisoners to be kept up to date and available at all times. Referring to the number of times O'Grady had been medically examined, he said: "It's obvious in this case there has been an enormous lack of communication."

The Home Office said that it had been deeply concerned by the suicide and would give the coroner's recommendations urgent consideration.

After the verdict, O'Grady's brother, James, said: "I knew all along he wasn't being treated properly... Eight doctors between them didn't have the sense to see what was wrong. Instead they just looked him up 24 hours a day."

Inquest, a group offering legal advice to the families of people who die in custody, said Brixton's F wing should be closed and the prison medical service integrated within the national health service. "It's appalling someone else has died through incompetence and mismanagement," a spokesman said.

The Prison Reform Trust said O'Grady's death highlighted the grossly inadequate facilities and training provided by the prison medical service for staff who had to deal with depressed and mentally disturbed inmates.

Query on town halls league

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LEAGUE tables of local authorities, promised by the government under its citizen's charter plan, should be published only with a warning about their validity, the Audit Commission will tell ministers.

Michael Heseltine, the environment minister, yesterday renewed the government's pledge to "name names" on councils' performance, but the commission, which would draw up the tables, says that the figures should not be taken as the final word.

Some senior officials believe that it may be impossible to produce league tables with the accuracy the government wants. They say that it should be fairly easy to compare the way in which councils provide specific services, but combining figures on individual services, such as street cleaning and refuse collection, to give an overall efficiency score for each council will be much more difficult.



On the road to restoration: Ben Simmonds, an auctioneer, checking over a 1951 2-litre Bristol 401 coupe before it went under the hammer at Millford Farm, near Studley, Warwickshire, yesterday. Next to it is a 1935 1.5-litre Riley Falcon saloon. They were among a lot of vintage cars that have lain covered in dust and cobwebs for almost two decades after their owner failed to fulfil his dream of restoring them to their former glory. The vehicles, including a 1030 3-

litre Bugatti Type 44 fixed head coupé, and a 1937 1.5-litre Riley Sprite open two seater, have been described as the most significant treasure trove of unrestored classic cars to be sold for many years. The anonymous owner had stored them in outbuildings that he had specially converted to garages and workshops in the early Seventies. Specialist coach builders, mechanics and panel-beaters worked on the vehicles but a series of disasters, including a storm which destroyed a

barn housing eight Coventry Rileys, led to the owner abandoning his dream. Even officials at the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust did not know the identity of the owner. "We had no idea this collection existed," Ron Unsworth, for the trust, said. Robert Brooks, managing director of Brooks, the company handling the sale, said that it was an opportunity for the real enthusiast "to pick up some wonderful cars absolutely ripe for restoration".

Motoring, page 31

Channel 3 bidders to get date

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT bidders awaiting the outcome of the Channel 3 licence auction will be told today when they can expect the result.

The Independent Television Commission board meets this morning for what could be its final deliberations in the six-month contest. All 16 independent companies and their challengers will be sent further guidance by fax this afternoon about the method and timing of the final announcement. Most bidders expect the result to be declared next Wednesday.

If the commission does not announce the date of the result today, it could mean anything from a hitch in the paperwork to a decision to invoke the exceptional circumstances clause to award a licence to a lower cash bidder. If the commission decides to consider exceptional circumstances, bidders will be summoned within the next two weeks for consultations.

Leading article, page 17

Student costs vary widely for same subjects

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THERE are wide variations in the costs of educating a university student, according to a series of comparisons by vice-chancellors and the Universities Funding Council.

Some universities are spending three times as much as others for courses in the same subjects. Physical sciences, for example, cost £12,470 per student at Cambridge, but only £3,160 at Bradford, the report shows.

University bureaucracy is just as variable. The London Business School devotes more than 13 per cent of its budget to central administration, while at Manchester University the share is only 3.6 per cent.

The proportion of Oxford's budget spent on administration is shown to be twice that of Cambridge.

The statistics provide a range of performance indicators to show how universities spend their public funds and give those on campus a yardstick to assess their efficiency. The vice-chancellors argue strongly against compiling league tables because so many of the figures are not directly comparable.

Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, who chaired the committee that produced the report, said: "Uncritical use of these statistics may seriously damage the health of the universities."

The most expensive courses are in education at City University, London. The cost for each of the five students is listed at £72,250, compared with the national average of £3,050. In reality, however, there are the eq-

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	% spent on administration	% of costs on pay	costs per student	costs per academic
1 Aston	8.5	55	757	12130
2 Bath	5.6	62	513	5910
3 Birmingham	5.9	60	628	6930
4 Bradford	6.0	72	475	6800
5 Bristol	4.3	73	518	5230
6 Brunel	5.8	71	547	6150
7 Cambridge	2.6	72	277	3340
8 City	5.8	64	589	8230
9 Durham	4.2	57	393	4900
10 East Anglia	6.0	74	483	6370
11 Essex	6.3	63	526	6110
12 Exeter	4.7	76	355	4410
13 Hull	6.8	70	406	5680
14 Keele	5.7	72	449	5680
15 Kent	6.5	68	541	7230
16 Lancaster	5.4	79	401	5070
17 Leeds	5.0	65	179	5800
18 Leicester	5.5	53	553	6580
19 Liverpool	5.1	72	558	5630
20 London Bus Sch	13.1	56	3466	36240
21 London	6.4	74	580	10220
a Birbeck	8.9	65	716	8600
b Imperial	4.7	67	852	9190
c Kings	6.0	74	687	7520
d LSE	9.7	68	695	11410
e Q Mary & West	6.9	75	638	9190
f R Hol & Bedford	5.8	82	490	5800
g Warwick	5.2	71	801	8110
h Loughborough	4.2	65	416	4730
i M. Bus. Sch	6.6	63	1453	17230
22 Manchester	3.6	68	401	4460
23 UMIST	4.8	74	531	6270
24 Newcastle	5.0	65	511	5610
25 Nottingham	4.6	70	499	6030
26 Oxford	6.1	61	548	6350
27 Reading	5.4	66	457	5520
30 Salford	5.4	77	471	6420
31 Sheffield	5.3	73	518	6060
32 Southampton	4.4	75	493	5170
33 Surrey	5.0	72	508	6700
34 Sussex	5.5	76	438	5720
35 Warwick	5.8	49	808	9020
36 York	4.7	63	438	5540
37 Aberystwyth	4.6	75	358	4250
38 Bangor	4.6	79	393	4500
39 UWC Cardiff	4.9	70	363	4490
40 Lampeter	7.9	62	481	6420
41 Swansea	4.1	76	300	4070
42 U W Col Mad	5.2	72	570	6350
43 Aberdeen	5.7	69	549	7240
44 Dundee	4.7	75	507	5700
45 Edinburgh	4.3	69	548	5150
46 Glasgow	3.7	69	385	4520
47 Heriot-Watt	6.2	70	646	8610
48 St Andrews	6.2	76	497	6360
49 Stirling	5.2	73	442	6450
50 Strathclyde	5.5	70	503	6470
51 Belfast	5.2	75	447	5990
52 Ulster	6.8	76	386	5140

Students said that the perennial problem of late payment of grants was worse this year. "We have every sympathy with the hard-pressed people administering awards but it is causing some hardship," the union said. Although most returning students and those who applied early

should have received their first grant instalments, some authorities said that they were still dealing with a late rush of applications.

University management statistics and performance indicators in the UK (Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 130, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3SE.)

Paper pays damages to Daley Thompson

By RAY CLANCY

DALEY Thompson, the decaathlon world record holder and former double Olympic champion, accepted undisclosed damages from *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday over an article that suggested he took performance enhancing drugs during training in the United States.

Geoffrey Bindman, for Thompson, told the High Court in London that a report in the newspaper on April 7 noted that his client did much of his training in California, where anabolic steroids were used by athletes. It went on to suggest that his achievements were of such a high order that they would have been impossible had he not been aided by "the going technology".

Mr Bindman said there was no truth whatsoever in the suggestion that Thompson had ever taken anabolic steroids or any other drugs to enhance his performance.

James Price, for the newspaper, said it regretted that the article conveyed such a meaning. Thompson's success was due to his own efforts and the paper had not intended to suggest otherwise. It agreed to pay Thompson's costs.

Holder leads women's chess

Game seven of the women's world chess championship between the Chinese challenger Xie Jun, aged 20, and the Georgian title holder, Maya Chiburdanidze, aged 30, resulted in yet another skirmish in the Ruy Lopez opening. The game was drawn after 19 moves and Chiburdanidze leads by four points to three. The match in Manila is for the best of 16 games.

In the world cup tournament in Reykjavik, the lead is shared by the former world champion, Anatoly Karpov, and his compatriot, the Russian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk. The two Britons, Jon Speelman and Murray Chandler, London grandmasters, are in the middle of the field.

Insiders only

The city-owned public telephone service at Hull, Humberside, the only one of its kind in the country, began charging outsiders 37p plus VAT for directory enquiries yesterday, because so many people from other towns were taking advantage of its free service. Blind and partially sighted outsiders can call on a concessionary number. The service remains free to local subscribers.

Arts cash fears

The Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts has attacked a European Commission proposal to restrict tobacco sponsorship, saying it could threaten many valued arts events. The association said: "Arts organisations are quite capable of deciding whether or not it is appropriate to accept certain forms of sponsorship, without any regulation being imposed upon them."

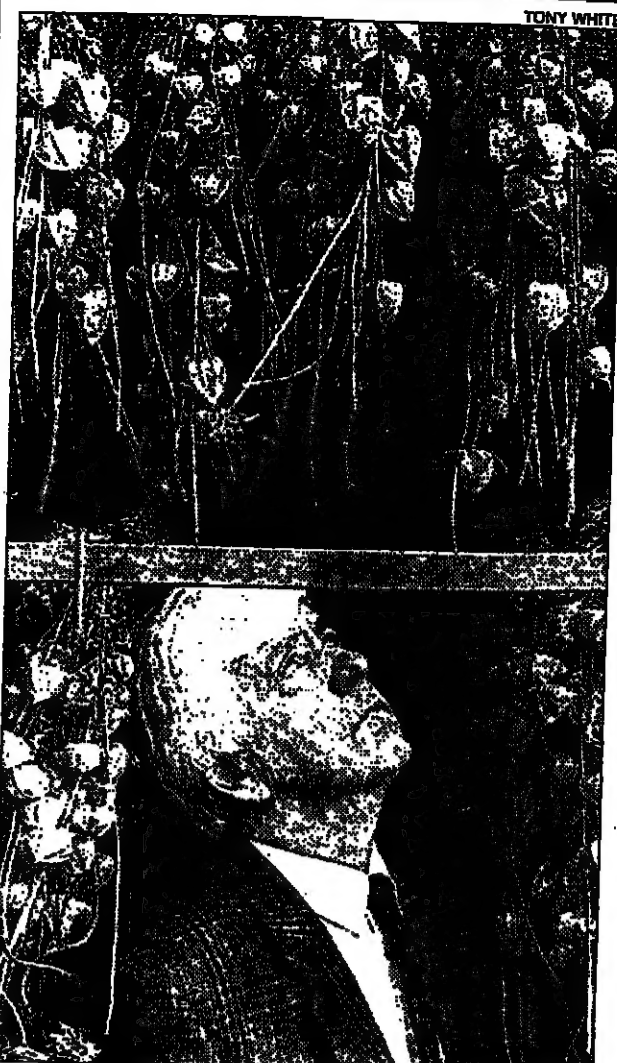
Siege man held

A north London man who kept armed police at bay for six hours in a siege yesterday was last night being questioned by detectives. The siege, at a house in Holloway, began when detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch went to the address after receiving information about weapons. A second man, from Stoke Newington, north London, was also being questioned.

Land

CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF NATURE

EAU DE TOILETTE POUR HOMME LACOSTE



Looking up: Mr Alexander among his dried flowers

Gamble grew into a farming success

IN THE autumn of 1891, James Alexander, a 54-year-old smallholder in Renfrewshire, decided to move south with his wife, Jane, their four children, 20 Ayrshire cows, one bull and an assortment of milking stools, pails and churns to take up the vacant tenancy of a 102-acre farm at Eynsford, Kent, at a rent of £150 a year.

A hundred years on, as many farmers bewail falling incomes and shrinking prospects, the third and fourth generations of the dynasty established by that Scottish migrant preside over 1,970 acres of profitable arable and grazing land, supporting 420 dairy and beef cattle and producing cereals, oilseed rape, apples, hops and dried flowers.

The flowers are the family's latest venture, introduced in the past five years, but already bringing in more money than anything else. Some 60 species of flowers and grasses are grown on 30 acres, cut by hand between June and September and dried in high-temperature kilns. The demand has exceeded all expectations.

William Alexander, aged 67, the grandson of James, has written a book chron-

A hundred years ago farmers had to take chances to survive. With subsidy cuts in the offing that is still true today, writes Michael Hornsby

icling this century of farming survival and expansion. It is to be launched on Tuesday at the National Farmers' Union in Knightsbridge, central London, in the presence of John Gummer, the agriculture minister, whose pet theme is the need for farmers to diversify.

A hundred years ago, as now, agriculture was in turmoil. From the early 1870s an influx of cheap grain, chiefly from the United States, had forced many cereal growers out of business, creating openings for enterprising livestock farmers able to benefit from cheaper feedstuff. James Alexander was one of many Scottish farmers who settled in Kent and Essex at the time.

"Considering he was already in his fifties, my grandfather took quite a gamble," Mr Alexander said yesterday. "He saw the potential of being situated so

close to the expanding urban market of London. If today's farmers are going to survive the subsidy cuts that are in the offing, they will have to take chances too, and be ready to seize new opportunities."

In 1908, Mr Alexander's father, also called William, took over the Eynsford farm and began a process of renting and buying more land that has continued almost to the present day. The family's holdings gradually expanded to absorb a dozen farms and now stretch across the valley of the River Darent from Farningham in the north to Shoreham in the south.

Rising demand for home-grown food during the first world war pushed up the prices of milk, cereals, cabbages and potatoes, creating enough surplus income for Mr Alexander's father to make his first land purchase in 1917. The dairy herd was increased and a milk round started. Further acquisitions of land in the Twenties and Thirties added hops and apple orchards. A caterpillar-track tractor, fuelled by a mixture of petrol and paraffin, was bought in 1937.

At this point the story of the farming Alexanders



Making a pile: a dung cart being loaded at the Alexanders' farm in the Thirties

might have come to an abrupt end. "There were plans for siting a new airport for London at Highbury, near Lullingstone, and that would effectively have put an end to farming in this area," Mr Alexander said. "But then the second world war intervened and the developers later switched their interest to Heathrow."

The Luftwaffe seemed only a minor threat by comparison. "We were on the direct bombing route to

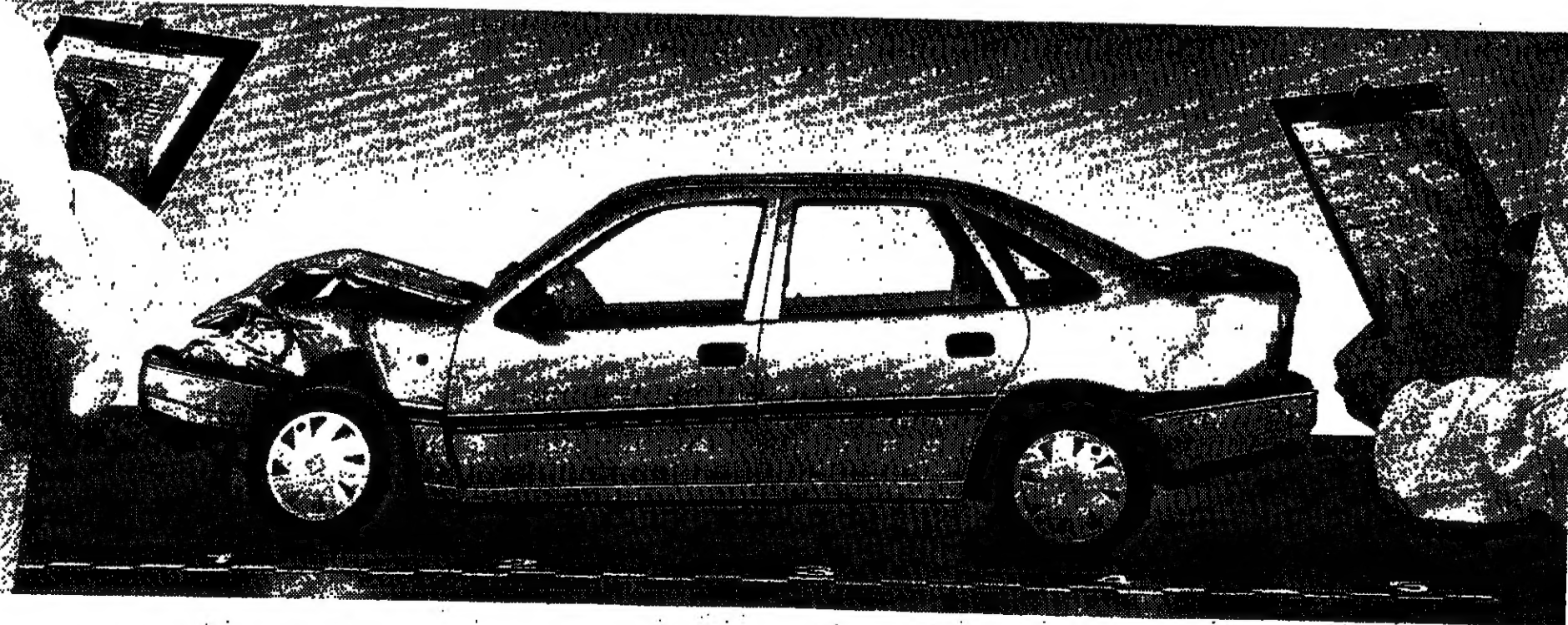
London and there was considerable damage to buildings and animals. We slept every night for more than a year in a dug-out in the garden. At the climax of the Battle of Britain, a Dornier bomber was shot down over Castle Farm at Shoreham."

Peacetime brought new challenges. "After the war, mechanisation was the watchword, like computerisation today. We bought our first combine harvester in 1948. Up until then, we

had been entirely reliant on the steam engine and thrasher, which required a team of 10 people to operate."

After the death of their father in 1957, at the age of 75, Mr Alexander and his brother, James, assumed full responsibility for the enterprise. Now they are in semi-retirement and have passed the day-to-day running of the various farms to their sons, James, Robert and William.

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RUNNING COSTS FROM MANUFACTURER'S OWN DATA

Church schools 'let down'

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

CHURCH schools are neglected by the clergy and often have poor buildings, according to a survey published by the Church of England today. Many heads also believe their first duty is to the local community rather than the church.

The report on the 18 secondary Church of England schools in the diocese of London says that heads and governors complain of "the lack of support and understanding which the schools feel coming from the church at large".

All the heads said that they could not survive on funding from their local education authorities, the main source of funds for all state schools, and relied on the church and parents to provide essential equipment and services. Teaching space was often cramped and inadequate, general maintenance was not good and the buildings and sites failed to meet modern needs, the report says.

There are only 120 Anglican schools in the country and the report from the church's Culham College Institute says that the London schools feel isolated from the church, although they all give a Christian education and often have to turn down parents who choose their schools. Most heads say that church schools should exist only if they are recognised as worthwhile in their own right.

Five schools said that they were local community schools reflecting the social and ethnic mix of the neighbourhood and not there to serve only the children of practising Anglicans.

Schools and Church (Culham College Institute, 60 East Saint Helen Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX5 1JF)

Pc forged chief's signature

A policeman who forged a chief superintendent's signature after his car was towed away was given a suspended jail sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Steven Holliday, aged 32, of Bow, east London, had jumped a queue of people waiting to pay parking fines at a car pound in July last year by claiming that the car, owned by his brother-in-law, was being used for surveillance. When asked later to prove the claim, he forged the chief superintendent's signature.

Jill Evans, for the defence, said that after the forgery was discovered Holliday was allowed to remain in the police and had since been recommended twice for bravery. She said that he had been under great stress at the time and needed the car quickly to deal with a family emergency. He was given a six-month sentence, suspended for a year.

Dog case halted

The case against a London man charged with having an unmuzzled pit bull terrier in an open place has been discontinued, because the dog is a Labrador cross and is therefore not covered by the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Aids post

The Archbishop of Canterbury has become a patron of the charity Aids Care Education and Training. Dr George Carey joins Cliff Richard, the pop singer, and General Eva Burrows, head of the Salvation Army.

Blandford fails

The Marquis of Blandford's application to be freed from jail pending appeal against his sentence and conviction for driving while disqualified has been refused at Aylesbury crown court. The appeal hearing will be held on October 18.

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Never underestimate the Conservative instinct for survival



'Maude: welcome for a future star'

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Tory survival instinct and the party's ability to exert collective self-discipline should never be underestimated. On its third day the conference in Blackpool suddenly remembered that there was an election to fight. It developed a herd instinct and a coherence that had been lacking. Suddenly the Tory team began to look solid again.

By confining back to their bosom the old conference darling Michael Heseltine the Tory representatives showed that the emotional greeting of Margaret Thatcher the day before had been

a thank you for the glorious past, not an invitation to destabilise the party in future with enthusiastic backstabbing. If there were hard-core Thatcherites who had wanted to give Mr Heseltine the bird for launching the challenge that brought her down, they had rediscovered the discipline to sit on their hands until an election.

Conservative nerve returned visibly as William Waldegrave, Mr Heseltine and Tom King won well merited ovations. The environment secretary showed his old zest, and some of his old disdain for the wearisome boundaries of ministerial territory, giving the conference an electric charge with a rip-roaring attack on

COMMENTARY

Labour that strayed way outside the environment brief.

The conference also gave a welcome to one of the stars of the future. Francis Maude, the man who has put flesh on the prime minister's citizen's charter, gave us a taste of the practicalities of the new Toryism which are to succeed some of the ideological excitements of the Thatcher years. Lofty commentators, he said, might scoff at concern with delays in driving tests and coned off motorways but conservatives did not. "It is the business of govern-

ment to take on the problems that dog people's everyday lives".

Not quite the heady combat promised by Mr Heseltine, or even the passion of Mr Waldegrave. But there might be more votes in it all the same.

But it was Mr Waldegrave who was the revelation. Leading on the subject which has seen Labour constantly force the government on the defensive it would have been an achievement for him merely to come through. The health secretary was speaking too against the background of a whispering campaign suggesting it was time for someone else to be given his job.

The conference, clearly reckon-

ing that he has been the victim of unscrupulous Labour propaganda, would have given him a sympathy ovation anyway, just as Neil Kinnock the week before would have been accorded one for reading out the Samoan telephone directory because his conference wanted to hit back at the tabloid character assassins.

But sympathy ovations don't silence the whispers. Mr Waldegrave did, by winning a genuine tribute for a sharp and combative defence of Tory policies. He was full of moral outrage at the accusations being levelled against the Tory health record. There is no substitute for passion and there was nothing academic about

this speech. It could be the making of Mr Waldegrave.

Whether or not he and the prime minister will be able to nail what they call the "Labour lie" alleging Tory ambitions to "privatise" the health service is questionable. There remains considerable public confusion about the differences between privatisation and compulsory tendering.

The other well deserved ovation yesterday came for Tom King. The defence secretary had an empathy for the representatives who demonstrated their concern about the effect of "peace dividend" defence cuts on famous old regiments.

Forgiven Heseltine once more his party's darling

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party yesterday forgave Michael Heseltine, less than a year after he forced the contest which ended Margaret Thatcher's 11 year reign.

He was rapturously received after a conference speech in which he strongly criticised Labour's record in local government and pledged legislation to prevent councillors who refused to pay their poll tax from voting on levels of local taxes.

In his first conference speech after six years in the political wilderness, the environment secretary gave a virtuoso performance. Although many in the party are wary of Mr Heseltine because of the role he played in the

ENVIRONMENT

overthrow of Mrs Thatcher, he demonstrated yesterday that among the present cabinet, he is unequalled in his ability to rouse the faithful.

Mr Heseltine badly needed to win back the affection of the rank and file. He did so with a speech calculated to delight the foot soldiers who have had little to cheer about since the conference opened. Mr Heseltine delivered a frontal attack on the opposition and a pledge that the Conservatives would "take the Labour party apart" at the next general election.

With Sir Geoffrey Howe and Edward Heath on the platform to witness his return to the scene of past triumphs, Mr Heseltine was interrupted by applause 27 times - by the same audience which, 24 hours earlier, had cheered Mrs Thatcher emotionally.

He delighted the conference with his announcement of penalties for councillors. The measure will be included in legislation creating the council tax and will bar councillors who refuse to pay it from voting on matters affecting the level of the local charge.

"What community ethic entitles Labour councillors to inflate local bills which they then refuse to pay themselves? It's worse than that, they then expect their constituents to pay on their behalf," he said.

Mr Heseltine also announced the appointment of consultants to investigate the development potential of acres of land stretching along both banks of the Thames east

of London. Developing the area is a project favoured by Mr Heseltine as it fits in with his ambitions to regenerate inner cities and combat urban dereliction.

The environment secretary also warned Tory councillors not to spend money on expensive public relations campaigns promoting their ideas for the restructuring of local government. Mr Heseltine hinted that he favoured abolition of some of the new counties established during the reform of local government in the 1970s: "Has Avon many friends? Is Cleveland universally popular?"

But it was his sustained, tub-thumping attack on Labour and its record in local government that wound up his audience until they were whistling and cheering. "I know something of Labour's community ethics. Sprawling inner city ghettos. Neglected and derelict overspill estates. They are easy to find. They are impossible to defend."

By the time he was telling the representatives that the Conservatives would win the election and that the time to start was now, they were rising to their feet to acclaim him once more as a conference favourite. As Ann Heseltine congratulated her husband with a hug, Sir Joseph Bernard, the conference chairman, said: "He has done it again". The assorted ranks of the media and the handful of ministers who had watched the speech agreed that Heseltine had achieved a triumphant return with typical panache.

Speech 'failed to address problems'

THE health secretary's speech came under attack from health service organisations and the Labour party for failing to address the problem of underfunding in the NHS.

The Royal College of Nursing welcomed Mr Waldegrave's commitment to nurse prescribing and his endorsement of the principle of equal access to free health care. However Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said nurses were concerned about the underfunding of the service "and the secretary of state had nothing to say about that".

The British Medical Association said that it regretted that the government had spent

£300 million introducing the reforms "without assessing whether the changes would work". Calling for a national enquiry into the health service, John Chawner, chairman of the BMA consultants' committee, said the London commission that Mr Waldegrave had announced was a "tacit admission that the market system is not an overall solution to the problems".

Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of the health service union, Cofse, dismissed Mr Waldegrave's speech as "strong on political snarls and weak on prescriptions".



Tory cheer: William Waldegrave after his speech that delighted representatives at Blackpool yesterday

Contemptuous Waldegrave rejects Labour health 'scare' stories

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party closed ranks behind William Waldegrave yesterday as he mounted a spirited defence of the national health service reforms and announced a written "constitution" for the service enshrining the right to free treatment.

Activists gave the embattled health secretary a three-minute standing ovation at the party's annual conference in Blackpool after he had contemptuously dismissed Labour's "scare" stories and pledged that there would be no slackening in the pace of the reforms.

He said that as part of the patient's charter he would be bringing forward "ten commandments" for the health service. The most important would guarantee "equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of means".

He also confirmed that he was setting up an enquiry team to report on London's health problems. However, he made no direct mention of his leaked plans to freeze opting out in the capital. They have prompted politically damaging suggestions that the government was retreating from the reforms in the face of Opposition pressure.

With his commitment to the reforms being questioned

and with two in three voters saying that they believe Labour's claim that the Tories intend to privatise the health service, Mr Waldegrave faced the biggest test of his political career as he set out to "nail" his critics' charges.

The rousing reception given to his speech, in which he said there had to be something "truly sick" in the way Labour were angling for votes by frightening the most vulnerable people, put paid to the questions being raised about his cabinet future.

The health secretary has bought himself some time to mount a fightback against Labour's offensive, which has undermined support for the Tories over the past few weeks. The second stage will come next week when he unveils the second wave of health service trust hospitals and later in the month he will publish a patient's charter backed by a national advertising campaign. Confirmation of the London freeze pending the outcome of the enquiry will come with the next announcement. The charter will contain the rest of the health secretary's commandments. These are likely to include rights to high quality

care, personal service, access to medical records, jargon-free consultations, a maximum wait of two years for surgery, timed outpatient appointments, the care of a named nurse or midwife on admission to hospital, simple complaints procedures, league tables of hospitals' performance and targets for waiting times for outpatient appointments.

The health secretary believes that Labour leaders have overreached themselves by trumpeting their privatisation

charge and that their political credibility can be denied across the board by exposing their claims as completely false.

He told representatives that it was time to lay to rest the privatisation scare story once and for all. It was false and Labour knew it, but they were peddling it because they wanted deliberately to frighten some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Tax revolt action likely to fall flat

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's attempt to disfranchise councillors who refuse to pay their local tax bills may fall flat because most poll tax rebels intend to pay the council tax.

It is also doubtful if the announcement represents an important change in the law, because at least one council has already banned non-paying councillors from voting on poll tax issues on the ground that they have a financial interest.

Most representatives at Blackpool had assumed that the environment secretary's ban on voting would apply to councillors who had not paid their poll tax. But the environment department contradicted that impression.

An official said that the prohibition on voting on financial measures would apply only to those councillors who refused to pay the new council tax, which is due to be replaced by the community charge on April 1, 1993. The status of councillors who still owed poll tax by that date had yet to be resolved, officials said last

night. Government lawyers believe it may be impossible to enforce the ban on those in arrears because the measure might amount to retrospective legislation.

Steve French, a Lambeth councillor who was suspended from the Labour party for refusing to pay the poll tax, said that he thought most councillors who had refused to pay it would pay the council tax. Mr French, chairman of the Poll Tax group, said that up to 250 councillors had refused to pay the poll tax.

"My instincts are to pay local taxes," he said. "It was only because the poll tax was so dreadful that a lot of people took a conscious decision to break the law."

Mr French and fellow councillor Greg Tucker have been banned from voting on poll tax issues since a liability order was issued against them for non-payment earlier this year.

EC rules 'will have to be observed'

By JOHN WINDER

THE government is determined to see that Community competitors observe the rules of the single market to be introduced at the end of next year, so that British firms could take up the "tremendous opportunities" it offered them.

Peter Lilley, trade secretary, told the conference that the opportunities could be seized only if the rules were enforced

as vigorously as the Continent as in the United Kingdom. If other members' countries did not enforce the rules, Britain must block them.

He announced that he would be introducing increased competition by allowing water companies to sell and buy water outside their areas.

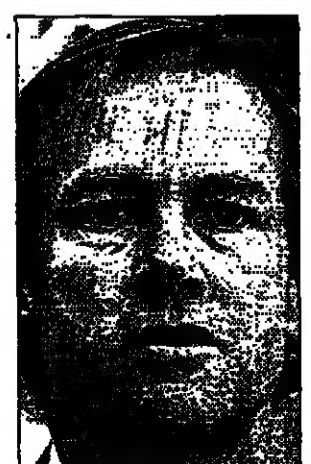
The trade secretary's speech, uncharacteristically larded with jokes, earned enthusiastic cheers and a standing ovation. He evoked warm support by his attacks on Labour, whose interventionist industrial policy he called "hands-on, just like the Boston strangler". Labour's change of lipstick to pale pink made the socialist kiss no more enticing. "It is still the kiss of death for business."

CONFERENCE DIARY

Applause for the unknown star

Peter Lilley was one of the more unlikely stars of the conference yesterday, turning over his desirous 5 per cent Gallup recognition rating to his advantage. "A little over a year ago I was a Treasury minister, unknown outside the City of London. Now I'm a cabinet minister - unknown throughout the United Kingdom," was his way of breaking the ice as he replied to the industry debate.

But Mr Lilley could afford to laugh off his reputation as the cabinet's invisible man. His speech was accompanied by the release of a glossy pamphlet entitled *The government's industrial strategy*. The fact that the paper slipped out from Tory Central Office and not his Whitehall department marked one innovation. The other was



Lilley: recognised by not very many

that for the first time in a decade, the Tories are no longer approaching the factory gate with both hands tied behind their backs. As one former adviser to Lord

Young of Graffham, one of Mr Lilley's predecessors, remarked ruefully: "When Margaret was in charge, industrial strategy was a banned phrase".

□ The feud simmers on... and on. Margaret Thatcher's ecstatic welcome on Wednesday was not unanimous. Edward Heath is angry that his old rival made two platform appearances. He says this broke an agreement that she would appear in the morning and leave the way clear for him to take the stage in the afternoon.

□ Conference fatigue claimed a notable scalp yesterday when Jerry Hayes, the ebullient Tory MP for Harlow, lost his way during the health debate. Wendy Mitchell, who was supervising the session, became "Mr Madam Chair-

man", then, losing his way completely as he sought to list Labour's past iniquities, he was reduced to spluttering about nameless "dreadful things" visited on the people. But at least he was man enough to own up to the source of his confusion - the after-effects of a "very bad night".

□ Although Michael Heseltine seems to have re-established himself as the darling of the conference, his ovation yesterday failed to match that of William Waldegrave. The health secretary's speech earned him three minutes of applause, but Mr Heseltine got 45 seconds. The remainder of the league table reads: Peter Lilley, 1 minute 36 seconds; Tom King, 1 minute 15 seconds; Tony Newton, 48 seconds; Francis Maude, 43 seconds.

Efficiency awards promised

By ROBERT MORGAN

CHARTER

PUBLIC services and utilities that meet new government efficiency standards are to get a "good housekeeping" seal of approval.

Francis Maude, the Treasury minister charged with the task of making the citizen's charter work, told the conference that only organisations that come up to scratch will be able to display the chartermark. Details will be published over the next couple of months and the scheme will be launched in January, he said.

He dismissed the "loftier commentators" who had scoffed at the charter when it was launched by the prime minister in July. Those commentators had asked who cared about driving test delays, or motorways unnecessarily coned off. "I tell them bluntly: Conservatives care. It is the business of government to take on the problems that dog people's everyday lives."

John Major's charter, he said, was the most comprehensive programme ever launched to improve public services. "No corner of the public service will remain untouched."

Problems could not be solved by merely writing a cheque. It was value for money that was the key. Neil Kinnock, he said, talked about priorities. He had less to say about where the money would come from.

"He seems to think," Mr Maude said, "that if you put a note under your pillow last thing at night, close your eyes and wish hard, then when you wake up in the morning you will find £35 billion. I am afraid I have some bad news for you Neil, the tooth fairy does not exist."

Tough standards are to be set for the public services, he told representatives. Everyone using public services would know what to expect and everyone working in them would know what they were expected to deliver.

"I want to say a final farewell to the old attitude, the men from the ministry attitude, that treats the customer as an inconvenient afterthought. There is no place for grudging, surly service, for petty officialdom, in John Major's Britain of the Nineties."

Debates today

The conference ends today with John Major's speech (2.25). This morning there are debates on a balloted motion on the family (9.30) and on party policy and organisation (10.30).

King defends army cuts

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TOM King yesterday stood firm over his plans for cut-backs in the army in the face of passionate grassroots Tory opposition and a backbench revolt when the Commons returns next week.

The defence secretary told the conference that the government had refused to duck changes that had become inevitable in the wake of the dismantling of the Warsaw pact and rundown of Soviet forces in Eastern Europe.

Tory whips are braced for a revolt by up to 20 Conservative MPs next Tuesday over the plans to cut army battalions from 30 to 38 and to merge some of the famous old fighting regiments. Mr King is being opposed by MPs who believe that the overall reductions are too great, that particular regiments have been unfairly treated or who are worried about cuts in the Territorial Army.

Sir Hector Monro, MP for Dumfriesshire, said he was frustrated at the lack of response from Mr King about the Scottish infantry battalions. Next week MPs would be lodging a petition signed by hundreds of thousands of Scots protesting at the proposals.

Mr King dismissed as untrue charges that his proposals had not been properly thought through or that the cuts were Treasury-driven. They were based on a full strategic assessment. "We do not take risks with our country's defences. No Conservative government will do that, nor will Conservatives duck taking tough decisions when they need to be taken," he said before receiving a warm ovation.

He was speaking after Shirley Finlay-Maxwell, prospective parliamentary candidate for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, received loud applause when she attacked the plans to cut the Scottish regiments. They simply did not make sense, she said.

People were marching in their thousands to save regiments whose names stirred the blood and conjured memories of bravery and valour. She said to cheers: "They have never failed us and we must not fail them now. If the guns begin to shoot, Scottish soldiers will be there as always right in the thick of it. They deserve a fair deal."

Mr King said he understood the passionate and deeply sincere feeling that had been voiced. It was in the infantry "with all the tradition and loyalty to the regiments" that feeling was strongest.

Wearing his old regimental tie, Mr King declared: "Don't think that I don't understand. I want to keep the benefits of the loyalty, spirit and enthusiasm of the regimental system that has served us so well. Some people have criticised me for that. They have said that its great advantage is its resistance to change. In spite of the obvious unhappiness when some regiments have to amalgamate, I want us to prove the critics wrong and that the system is worth keeping and capable of change."

Right
rock
co



Aquino's vision

Newton verdict

S181m for UN

Lion attack

Surrender
fear return

Right-wingers rock Israeli coalition

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

SERIOUS cracks began to emerge in the Israeli coalition government yesterday as right-wing members vowed to continue disruptive action, in an effort to undermine Israel's participation in the United States peace initiative.

The campaign centred on a ramshackle Arab building in the east Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, beside the tombs of King David and King Solomon. Four members of the Knesset prepared to spend their second night there with Jewish settlers, in a confrontation with the police that is calculated to embarrass Israeli leaders during the visit to Jerusalem by

the James Baker, the American Secretary of State.

"We have to make it clear to the Americans that they cannot dictate on what terms we should negotiate peace," said Eliahu Hasek, one of the four legislators and a member of the extremist Tzohar party, a junior partner in the government.

"Breaking away from America will be like divorcing your wife," he explained. "Although it will be unpleasant — America provides 6 per cent of our gross national product — we cannot live with somebody who keeps attacking us in this way."

His comments were directed at the Bush administration's handling of the proposed peace conference scheduled for later this month, which Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has said he will attend. Right-wingers in his government have claimed, however, that this will become a kangaroo court, where the Jewish state will be forced to give up the territories it occupied in 1967 during the six-day war.

"The nearer we approach Baker's visit next week and the negotiations planned for the end of this month, the more extremists on both the Israeli and Arab sides will try to derail the process," a senior Israeli government source predicted yesterday, as he commented on the settlement controversy.

Although leading ministers in favour of the peace conference such as David Levy, the foreign minister, and Dan Meridor, the justice minister, have spoken out against the actions of the right-wingers, and in particular the timing of the Silwan operation, it has still become a rallying point for Ariel Sharon, the maverick housing minister. Mr Sharon announced on Wednesday night that he planned to go one step further and challenge Mr Shamir for the leadership.

"I will run," Mr Sharon vowed in a television interview. "If I want something I achieve it." Referring to the peace conference, he added: "Israel has not presented any demands. It has in principle accepted pre-conditions. We have surrendered in principle all our positions... this scares me."

Although the former defence minister, his supporters in the ruling Likud party and the three right-wing coalition parties represent only a handful of seats in the government, his warning of a challenge to the leadership is expected to make Mr Shamir's approach to the American-sponsored peace conference even more cautious than it has already been.

"I will obviously run, based on the fact that I can carry out the correct policy to achieve peace — because I believe we can arrive at peace — carry out a correct defence policy to return security to the life of Jews in Israel and carry out a correct immigration policy," Mr Sharon said.



Aquino's vision

Manila — President Aquino (above) yesterday signed a law loosening control by the central government in Manila over the Philippines' 73 provinces which include more than 7,000 islands.

"It establishes the vision of a Filipino nation of self-reliant communities," she said. The law would give local governments up to 40 per cent of tax revenues to deliver basic local services. (Reuters)

Newton verdict

Oakland, California — Tyrone Robinson, aged 27, was convicted here of murdering Huey Newton, the co-founder of Black Panthers, the radical black liberation group, to impress gang members and win a drug-dealing franchise. Robinson admitted shooting Newton in 1989 but claimed Newton had fired first. (AP)

\$181m for UN

New York — The United States gave the United Nations a cheque for \$181 million (£106 million), it owes half a billion dollars in dues to the UN's budget after failing behind in payments during the Reagan presidency in protest against some UN activities and what was described as administrative waste. (Reuters)

Lion attack

Manchester, New Hampshire — An American model who was posing with a lion for a photograph was injured when it suddenly took her head in its jaws. Shannon Audley, aged 23, suffered cuts to her head and back. She was said later to be doing well after medical treatment. (AP)

Surrendered troops fear return to Iraq

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SEVERAL thousand Iraqi troops surrendered to Kurdish guerrillas during fighting around the northern Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah this week and many say they fear retribution at President Saddam Hussein's hands if they go home.

Scores of Iraqi prisoners of war being held by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a big Kurdish guerrilla group, expressed a strong desire to return to their families. But most were uneasy about the fate which could await them because they surrendered. "You must tell the whole world about us," said one man. "Otherwise we may disappear when we go back."

The Iraqis, all captured in Monday's fighting, were being held at PUK headquarters in Sulaymaniyah. They were due to be turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross under the terms of the Geneva convention on repatriation of POWs.

The prisoners say they are subject to a fine and three years in jail if they return without their weapons. The Iraqi troops being held at PUK headquarters, who totalled more than 150, said they were being well treated.

Recent engagements between Iraqi troops and Kurdish guerrillas have produced large numbers of Iraqi prisoners, including up to 4,000 captured in the past week. The

last allied troops, meanwhile, pulled out of Silopi in south-east Turkey yesterday after a six-month mission to protect Kurds in northern Iraq.

American, British and French combat and reconnaissance planes based at the southern Turkish base of Incirlik will continue to patrol northern Iraqi air space to deter Saddam from resuming full-scale attacks on the Kurds. The 38 American soldiers hoisting kitbags onto buses were the last of an allied force of 2,500 troops which stayed on as a deterrent after Western troops left northern Iraq in June. "We have done what we came to do," said Lieutenant-Colonel David Roser of the US Air Force, as heavy equipment was loaded on to lorries.

A senior American military official said that the ceasefire in the Sulaymaniyah region appeared to be holding yesterday. Turkish warplanes and helicopters have launched a massive operation in south-eastern Turkey along the Iraqi border in pursuit of Turkish Kurdish guerrillas, officials said yesterday.

A high-level government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the operation started on Tuesday following a guerrilla raid on an army post that killed 11 Turkish soldiers. He said the operation was limited to Turkish territory at present.

New witnesses to testify against Judge Thomas

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO witnesses are expected to testify that Anita Hill confided allegations of sexual harassment when the Senate judiciary committee opens new hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas.

President Bush's nomination of Judge Thomas to replace the liberal Thurgood Marshall, has been threatened by revelations of Professor Hill's allegations. Both Judge Thomas and Professor Hill, of Oklahoma university, will testify before the committee when it meets today to assess the allegations that forced a week's delay in the Senate confirmation vote.

Two other witnesses who support Professor Hill were also expected to testify, according to sources. One is a former Yale Law School classmate who is now a state judge. The other is Joel Paul, an American university law professor who has said that Professor Hill told him during a job interview that she had been

sexually harassed when she worked with Judge Thomas.

In televised hearings whose subject matter has knocked Washington politics sideways over the past remarkable week, Judge Thomas will have to reply to allegations from Professor Hill, his former personal assistant, that he discussed pornographic films with her after she had refused his invitations and advances. Judge Thomas has already denied the charges. Democrat senator Patrick Leahy, a member of the judiciary committee, promised "tough and probing questions" of the charges to see "who is telling the truth".

Following detailed negotiations between Judge Thomas's supporters and opponents in the Senate, the nominee will appear at the end of the hearing after testimony has already been heard by Professor Hill, and those who will allegedly corroborate her charges. Judge Thomas is

said to be planning to say as little as possible about the alleged events. His advisers have released telephone records which purport to show that Professor Hill maintained cordial relations with her former boss long after the time that he is supposed to have put sexual pressure on her.

The White House was yesterday attempting to stay out of the furor in which the character of Judge Thomas, the hidden extent of sexual harassment and the method of confirming presidential appointments have become confused.

Mr Bush, who saw Judge Thomas privately yesterday, said nothing more yesterday. Although the administration is still putting on a confident face about its nominee, new names are being prepared in case the nomination fails. "The president is prepared to let the system work," a spokesman said.

Sexual judgment, page 16



Days of judgment: Judge Thomas outside his home in Alexandria, Virginia, yesterday

Biosphere pioneer injured

Oracle, Arizona — One of eight people belonging to the Biosphere experiment in Arizona had the tip of her finger cut off in an accident, and may have to be taken out of the sealed environment, a project official said yesterday.

Jane Poynter, 28, who comes from Surrey and is the Biosphere's farm manager, was injured while operating a rice-hulling machine on Wednesday. The finger was sewn back on by the crew's doctor, Dr Roy Walford, but as the machine had cut through to the bone, she may have to be taken out temporarily for specialist surgery. A decision on whether to remove her will be made in the next two or three days.

The crew of eight was sealed into the three-acre glass-enclosed site on September 26. Their intention is to stay inside, without any contact with the outside world for two years. If Ms Poynter were taken out through the airlocks for surgery, it would not ruin the experiment to see if humans can run a self-sustaining environment, said the official. Dr Walford will make a decision about the need for surgery during the next few days. (AP)

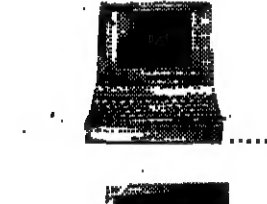
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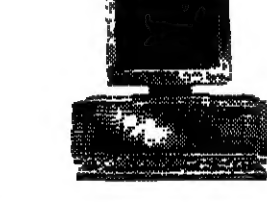
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Dutch to veto rise in MEPs for Bonn

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE AND ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

Diplomatic sanctions directed against Serbia are more likely than economic ones. The more detailed the discussions of possible economic measures, the larger the practical problems appear to be. The EC can abrogate its trade agreement with the federal government, but that sanction — like an oil embargo — will hit the innocent as well. An oil embargo, EC experts have concluded, will be almost impossible to enforce and is as likely to leave people without heat and light as it is to starve tanks of fuel.



By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

The likelihood of an all-out offensive can be dismissed. It would be doomed to failure. The Croats seem prepared to fight to the last man.

The federal forces' goal, therefore, seems to be limited, the principal objectives being: to deny the Croats the ability to recover lost territory, to secure strategic economic assets, such as the oil pipeline and petrochemical plants, and to secure a negotiating advantage in the event of a real ceasefire agreement.

From TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

The foreign ministry in Bonn was yesterday anxious to play down the issue. "There is no formal recognition from the government of this, and really it is: an initiative from the parliamentarians," a spokesman said. A British spokesman in Brussels said that the government would also have doubts about an increased number of German MEPs. "It was our understanding, that there would be no change in the constitutional balance."

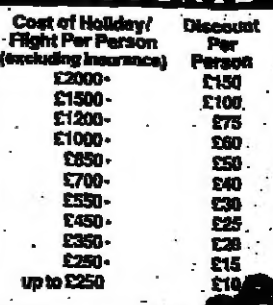
However, with Germany wanting increased powers for the European parliament in return for a deal on European monetary union, Bonn should be able to bargain if it wishes.

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PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

A linguistic sleuth for *Newsweek* magazine concluded recently that the most rigid barriers are disappearing steadily, especially among the young. In jobs like journalism, public relations and marketing, *tu* is apparently well-established, but the familiar is still resisted in the more starchy levels of the professions and government service. President Mitterrand *allows* few people to call him *tu* and they never in public. When M. Marion first sought to raise the subject of espionage with M. Mitterrand, he observed frostily: "Let us move to the next subject."



Lunn Poly

Getaway for less

Shevardnadze predicts rise of Russia in new union

Edward Shevardnadze tells Charles Bremner in Moscow that steps must be taken quickly to bring about the economic recovery of the country if chaos is to be avoided

EVEN the mood-swing that has afflicted Russia, with the euphoria after the attempted coup giving way to despair and intimations of disaster, seems strange to find an authoritative voice predicting the eventual, albeit difficult, birth of a new union from the rubble of the old.

When the voice is that of Edward Shevardnadze, the man who last December started the world to the danger of a putsch with his abrupt resignation as foreign minister, there are reasons for paying attention. Mr Shevardnadze cuts a calm figure as he walks into the draughting room in the old mansion on Yelizarova Street, which serves as the headquarters for the Foreign Political Association, the think-tank he has founded.

His demeanour is sombre, but the old twinkles still flash through as he scans the problems, explaining his reasons for hope. His estrangement now over, he is proving these analytical skills again to President Gorbachev as a member of his presidential council and head of the team settling Lithuania's divorce from the "former Soviet Union".

Time is critical, says Mr Shevardnadze, if the nation is to avoid another anti-democratic grab for power. "Already, we are almost living in anarchy. If, in forthcoming days, the questions over the economic

union are not resolved then we are truly heading for chaos," he says. Since the attempted coup, "practically nothing has been done for the real recovery of the economy... If we are going to move at that speed, the people will punish us."

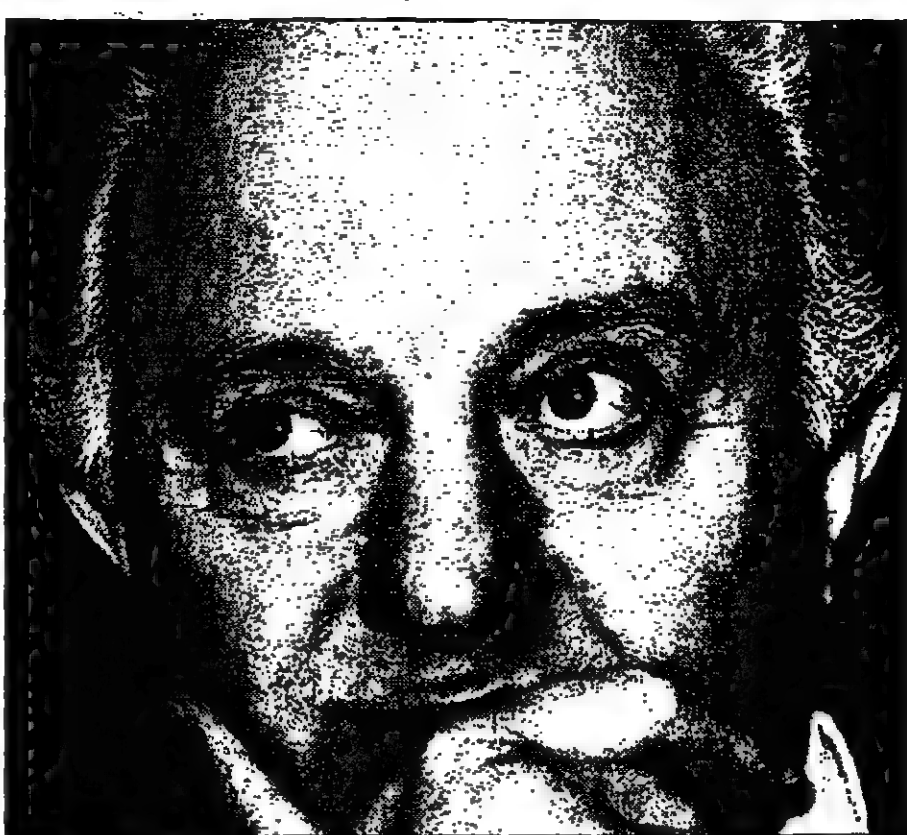
The feeling of drift has been fuelled by the paralysis over the past three weeks of Russia, the giant around whom any future union will inevitably cluster. While Boris Yeltsin, the president, has rested near the Black Sea for two weeks, his lieutenants have squabbled over the spoils from the collapsing empire. Meanwhile, in the Kremlin, Mr Gorbachev has seemed ever more powerless as the republics have engaged in their battle of wills.

Mr Shevardnadze's talk of a popular backlash is shared among democrats. He believes that the "fundamentalists" could succeed in mobilising discontent if living conditions deteriorate further. The next plotters could prove less incompetent. A handful of incidents are already being read as harbingers of wider unrest. On Tuesday, Russian television said a riot over cancelled flights at a Moscow airport and disturbances over food shortages in Perm, suggested that frustration was boiling up and "cataclysm" may not be far off. Aid from the West could

prove vital to the country's survival intact, says Mr Shevardnadze.

Although the squabbling in the Russian leadership seems to be a perilous diversion from the business of heading off chaos, Mr Shevardnadze sees it as no more than useful rivalry among a group inexperienced in democracy. "They are all one team. It's their argument. If you take them separately they all support President Yeltsin." Russia, he is sure, will emerge to lead a new, loose formation of republics in spite of the present conflicts. The republics would realise that their interests lay in devising a common economic and political space because of shared histories, their shared cultures and spirit, as he puts it. The alternatives could lead to war if there are disputes over territory, he says. "Without question, Russia will be the most important foundation of the democratic process."

This thinking draws scant sympathy from non-Russians, many of whom see the break-up as a chance to cast off a yoke that was too long before it was communist. In the Ukraine, which is opposed to any political union, it is impossible for a politician to be sufficiently anti-Russian. As the former Georgian party boss and police chief who never showed his demo-



Contemplating the future: although Edward Shevardnadze says that the birth of a new union will be difficult, he believes that there is still room for optimism

cratic streak until he joined Mr Gorbachev, Mr Shevardnadze is viewed with suspicion. In his native Georgia, Mr Shevardnadze's views have earned the fury of President Gamsakhurdia and his nationalist leadership, who have no intention of joining a union with the old colonial power.

The way things look now, the new Union of Free Sovereign Republics, as Mr

Gorbachev's draft treaty calls it, will be unlikely to encompass more than Russia, the Central Asian republics, Azerbaijan and Belorussia. Whoever belongs to it, Mr Shevardnadze says, will have a central authority headed by a president who will act as co-ordinator and organiser. "The president will not wield as much executive power as the president of the United States, or

even France, but it will not be symbolic." On the world stage, the new commonwealth would fill the shoes of the late union, he says.

From the outside, Mr Gorbachev would seem the ideal man, but other names are coming to the fore. One suggestion is that Mr Yeltsin should be head of a Russian-dominated union, with Anatoli Sobchak, the powerful St Petersburg mayor, as the

new Russian leader. But if the centre is to be a looser co-ordinating force, then Mr Shevardnadze, with his non-Russian background, is an obvious candidate. For the moment, his political ambitions are focused on the Movement for Democratic Reform, which includes Gavril Popov, the Moscow mayor, Mr Sobchak and Aleksandr Yakovlev, Mr Gorbachev's former adviser. It is too early to say whether the movement will grow into a party, Mr Shevardnadze says, but its ambitions are as an inter-union force.

Mr Shevardnadze, who is 63, still has high regard for Mr Gorbachev. "I know I criticised him in the past, but he is the originator of perestroika and I feel that we must all help and support him."

He still believes that Mr Gorbachev's failure to act against the rising ambitions of the hardliners had set the scene for the attempted coup. Instead of taking a back seat during the suppression in the Baltics earlier this year, Mr Gorbachev should have acted. "If he sacked the defence minister when that tiny aeroplane, like a little toy, landed in Red Square, then he should have fired Yazov [Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister and coup plotters] immediately" over the Baltics, he says, laughing at the memory of the aerial exploits of Matthias Rust, the young German pilot.

But, says Mr Shevardnadze before getting up to go, political differences do not end a friendship at their

Spy kept facts from the KGB

Moscow — Markus Wolf, the former East German spy-master whose communist agents riddled West Germany, said yesterday that his agency never told the KGB all that it discovered.

In his first public appearance in united Germany since returning from exile in Moscow, Herr Wolf, aged 68, was testifying in the trial of four of his former agents charged with espionage. "There was never any order to pass information on to the Soviet or other [Eastern bloc] intelligence services," he told Bavaria's regional high court.

Herr Wolf, who faces espionage charges in Germany for spying on Bonn, was surrounded by television cameras and photographers as he entered the court. (Reuters)

Down to earth

Moscow — An Austrian and a Kazakh cosmonaut have returned after an eight-day trip to Mir, the orbiting Soviet space station. Franz Viehböck and Toktar Aubakirov landed in Kazakhstan in a Soyuz spacecraft with Anatoli Artyukhin, who was returning from a five-month stay on Mir. (Reuters)

British regrets

Bonn — Britain's ambassador in Bonn, has written to two German mayors upset by a proposed statue to Sir Arthur Harris, responsible for the bombing of Germany during the second world war. "The government and people of the United Kingdom deeply regret the suffering caused on both sides," he said. (Reuters)

Immigrant action

Germany plans to hold all refugees in camps

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ALL refugees entering Germany will be held in camps for a maximum of six weeks, under plans agreed by the four main political parties yesterday. After that they will be expelled unless they can prove their claim for political asylum.

Against the background of continuing violent attacks on hosts for foreigners, the parties decided to introduce tougher, faster measures for vetting asylum seekers, who are arriving at the rate of about 1,000 a day.

While party leaders were approving the plans, the Bundestag was debating and

condemning attacks on foreigners, while supporting the continuing need to offer asylum to any in danger of persecution. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said in a speech in Berlin yesterday evening that political extremism had always brought bad luck to the German people and that the state and society must not weaken in the face of violence.

The plans agreed yesterday are meant to speed up the process of weeding out the economic refugees taking advantage of Germany's open-door asylum policy. At

present only about one in 20 of those arriving is ultimately found to have genuine grounds for claiming asylum, but many of the remainder manage to stay for months and even years while they fight their case through the various legal processes.

Both the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and the Free Democrats (FDP), junior members of the government coalition, have blocked any amendment to the constitution which would restrict the right to claim asylum.

With the help of 500 extra staff and a centralised computer, the new plan is intended to process every application within a fortnight, giving all those rejected three weeks to appeal, and then just one week in which to leave before being expelled.

To make this streamlined procedure possible, all refugees would be sent to one of 90 camps around the country, many of them in converted army barracks, each with a



Kohl: extremism has always brought Germans bad luck

capacity of 500. There they will wait while their case is processed and any appeal is heard. They would not be dispersed as at present in places like school halls or community centres, where they are in small groups in areas which are difficult for the authorities to protect.

Interior, justice and social service ministers from the 16 German states are to meet next Thursday to discuss the plan and see how it can be implemented.

Meanwhile, the federal police have admitted that they cannot yet find out whether or not the attacks on foreigners and hostels are being centrally organised. Counter-intelligence agents have been ordered to keep a watch on skinheads and try to penetrate any right-wing cells which might be masterminding attacks around the country.

● Berlin: Police said yesterday that they had arrested nine gypsies suspected of abducting children from immigrant reception centres and selling them in west European countries. A Yugoslav confessed to kidnapping a one-year-old boy from a Berlin centre and police found a two-year-old girl apparently snatched from the same place, a spokesman said. (Reuters)

Gang attacks Meissen hostel

FROM IAN MURRAY IN MEISSEN

THE mob arrived at the refugee hostel after sunset. In spite of the wave of attacks on homes for foreigners all over Germany, the raiders achieved complete surprise. There was no police guard, no official of duty and no warning.

The refugees at the hostel in Meissen thought they were safe. Unemployment and boredom, the recruiting grounds for the far right, are less of a problem here than elsewhere. The hostel, in converted factory offices up a tiny track along the Triebisch valley, seemed to be a haven. Unlike other towns in the east, where neo-Nazi gangs have struck, Meissen has a beautiful and lively, if dirty, city centre.

But last week, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of German unity, the mob gathered. They were all young, many of them obviously still at school, most of them making, all of them chanting slogans such as "Foreigners out" and "Germany for the Germans". The refugees, from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Albania, Romania and elsewhere, quickly shut the hostel doors, but a stone smashed a window and the mob burst in.

For nearly an hour about 60 young people ran riot. Eventually ten policemen arrived and had to call for reinforcements. Meissen, like all cities in the east, is short of officers.

After Trentsch, the German who manages the hostel, is hounded by the violence, "Meissen people are not like this," he said. "This would never have happened under Honecker [Erich Honecker, the former East German leader]. This sort of thing has been going on all over Germany anyway. It is not something happening exclusively in the east and it is clearly out of character in Meissen." He believes that

some of those who attacked his hostel came from other cities such as Dresden. The gang had gathered in the town after an inaugural meeting called by a branch of the far right German Peoples' Union (DVU), that had just won seats in the Bremen state parliamentary elections.

"A lot of them were only 13 or 14," Herr Trentsch said. "Young boys like that get together because they feel strong in a group. They could just as easily have been throwing stones for the far left." Herr Trentsch insists that the doors of the hostel must remain open. "We must not give way to violence."

The community is rallying round. Frau Renate Koch, a councillor, has promised that "it is our social and moral duty to see that we are not destroyed by these radicals". But the refugees' confidence has been shattered; many refuse to go out.

The attack suggests right-wing troublemakers are becoming more organised, and are exploiting the shortage of police. Heinz Eggert, who took over as Saxony's interior minister only last week, has already asked for extra police help from the West.

The Christian Democrats (CDU), who have an overall majority in Saxony, are pressing urgently for a change in the constitution that would exclude a majority of the refugees pouring into Germany at the rate of around 1,700 a day. All-party talks on this subject resumed in Bonn yesterday. Although it seems unlikely that the constitution will be amended, both government and opposition now appear to be believing that limiting the number of people coming into the country is the best way of stopping support for the far right.

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Kenyan president rejects democracy

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya underlined his determination to resist the democratic tide in Africa yesterday with a pledge to maintain his one-party system for decades.

Affirming his determination to silence dissidents, he marked his thirteenth anniversary in power with a speech that appeared to be a direct rejection of recent international pressure for the democratisation of Kenya. Among those urging reform have been Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who made unusually explicit comments during a visit last month.

"I do not want to quit. I want to go on. I will be here for perhaps another 20 years. My critics will be tired," Mr Moi, aged 67, told a rally in Nairobi. He said pro-democracy activists wanted to incite the public against his well-managed government and could create disorder. "I cannot allow that. I will take action against these people who do not want peace, do not want progress, want chaos," he said.

"I have reached my limit now and I will take action. For

how long will I be tolerant? For how long will I let our citizens live in fear from people calling for change?" he asked the crowd. "I will not be ridden like a horse."

During his visit Mr Hurd pointedly called for more freedom of expression and noted the importance of "finding the right means of allowing Kenyans an effective say in choosing a leader". He said that he would "like to see multiparty democracy in Kenya" but described the suggestion as "advice to a friend".

Despite his threats to deal harshly with the opposition, Mr Moi did not specify yesterday how he would tackle such groups as the nascent Forum for Restoration of Democracy which has been refused official registration, but which has been campaigning for multiparty politics which, it says, would make Kenyan politicians accountable to the public.

Mr Moi did not refer to the movement directly yesterday but said that he would not allow any "unknown groups" to hold any meetings designed to disrupt peace. The forum

called for a rally last weekend to discuss "the restoration of democracy in Kenya" but cancelled it at the last minute after failing to obtain a licence to hold it. Last week, Mr Moi banned a pro-democracy rally and threatened to "crush like rats" anyone who attempted to attend.

On Wednesday the forum announced that it would hold the rally on November 16 "with or without a licence". A similar rally called in July last year caused nationwide riots in which at least 20 people were killed and led to the repression of opponents of one-party rule.

The Bush administration has already called on the Moi government to become more democratic and Congress is considering tying some forms of aid to an improved human rights performance and democratic reforms. Britain has made no move to reduce its £44 million annual aid and aid experts make the point that Britain is no longer the biggest donor, and that Japan and other countries are in a better position to influence the government in Nairobi.



Coming to blows: Italian cyclist Giovanni Lombardi, right, hitting out after he was punched by Bob Rensenberg of The Netherlands after they fell in the first round of the Toomey's Grand Prix Cycling race in Sydney

Castro lauded by party faithful

From REUTER IN HAVANA

FIDEL Castro walked to the theatre, wearing his familiar olive-green uniform, and was overwhelmed by shouts of "Whatever you want Fidel, whatever you want." The enthusiastic greeting was as Cuba's ruling communist party began its congress yesterday to draw up a strategy for survival.

Nearly 2,000 delegates attended the party meeting, which opened at a theatre in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, 600 miles northeast of Havana. Castro, the first secretary, has said his government will never abandon the one-party communist system enshrined in Cuba's constitution. It will, however, seek to bring it up to date with recent changes in the world, such as the swing away from communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the island's political mentor and main economic supplier for the past 30 years.

The congress, held at a time when Cuba is facing growing economic problems and international pressure to change its policies, was expected to last at least four days. Asent from the opening ceremony were Raul Castro, the armed forces minister, and D. Castro's brother, and General Abelardo Colome Cervera, the interior minister.

Esteban Lazo, who is party secretary for Santiago de Cuba and the host of the congress, said these two high-ranking officials were both "in their command posts", ensuring the defence and security of the nation.

The meeting opened on an historic date for Cuba: the 123rd anniversary of an 1868 uprising by a Cuban lawyer, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, who freed his slaves and launched an independence war against the island's Spanish rulers. The congress, the fourth held since the constitution was introduced in 1976, was due to debate and approve four draft resolutions referring to the ruling party's statutes and programme, to reforms in the law and national government system and to the country's economic development.

Political dissidents meeting in Havana on Monday dismissed the reforms proposed at the congress as "cosmetic" and called for elections and a multi-party system. Human rights activists reported that at least six of these dissidents were arrested in Havana on Wednesday, hours before the party congress was due to start.

IMF urges switch in spending

By DAVID WATTS

IF GOVERNMENTS take advantage of the opportunity offered by the peace dividend and cut agricultural subsidies, the reconstruction of the Middle East and Eastern Europe could be financed with the savings, Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in Bangkok yesterday.

The rebuilding of those two areas would require about \$100 billion (£59 billion) over the next few years, but making the switch would demand formidable leadership, M. Camdessus said before the opening of the fund's annual meeting.

He said \$140 billion could be saved if countries that spent more than 4.5 per cent of their gross national product on arms cut spending to that level. The fund reported last May that Middle Eastern nations were spending 10.1 per cent of their gross national product on arms, while the figure for Eastern Europe was 9.9 per cent. Spending on farm support packages in the industrialised world alone totalled the \$100 billion likely to be needed in additional investments, he said.

Queen visits school of hope in Namibia

From GAVIN BELL IN KATUTURA

TO THE delight of swarms of children, the Queen stepped into the murky past of apartheid yesterday and perceived a hopeful vision of a more enlightened future. On her only engagement with political undertones during her state visit to Namibia, the Queen inspected a symbol of resistance to racism at a black township.

The primary school in Kamuru, on the outskirts of the capital, Windhoek, was founded by the community in 1986 to escape the Bantu education system imposed by the South African administration, and to establish English as the medium for multiracial teaching. Now more than 1,000 black and Coloured children are learning about the people who led the resistance against colonial oppression.

As the royal motorcade arrived, it passed fading revolutionary slogans urging people to vote for Swapo

(South West African People's Organisation), the erstwhile guerrilla movement that now governs. The township created by enforced removals to make way for white suburbs in 1959, is still almost wholly inhabited by blacks. Overcrowding and unemployment estimated at 50 per cent have been exacerbated by an influx of rural poor, and the return of political exiles in 1989.

Selma Shejavali, the school principal, is not disheartened by the slow progress in integrating black and white pupils, who continue to live in de facto segregated neighbourhoods. "The change so far are not very big... but the hopes are very big. At least now we are free to express our opinions without fear."

Harare: The Queen was greeted by President Ntshangwe and traditional tribal dancers and singers when she arrived here yesterday. (Reuters)

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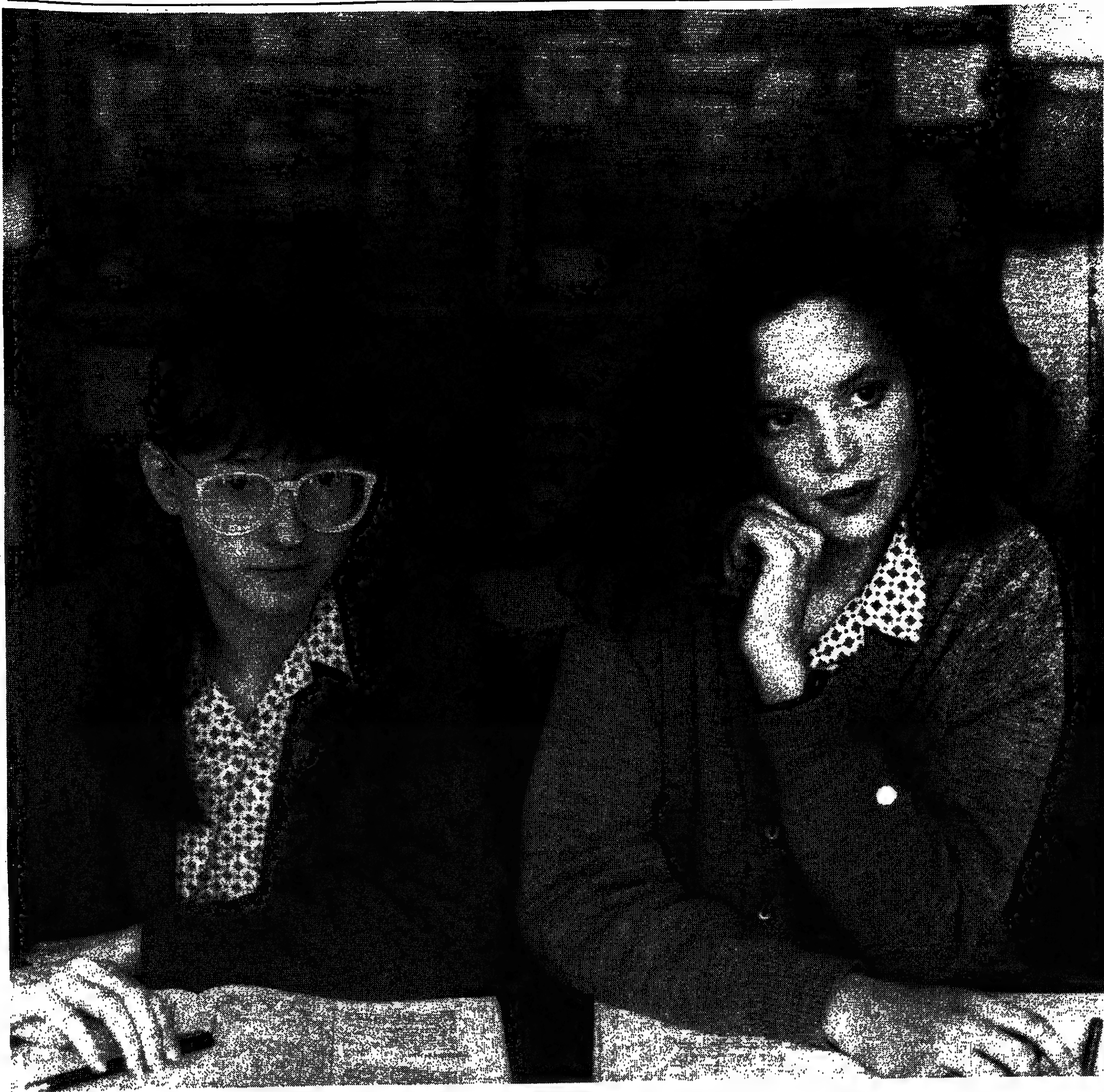
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ONE GIRL WANTS TO GO TO UNIVERSITY. THE OTHER WANTS TO LEAVE AT 16. HOW DO YOU KEEP THEM BOTH INTERESTED?

Jackie on the right is motivated to learn at school by her long-term goals. However, contrary to appearances, Susan on the left may see little point in paying attention at all.

MUSIC, clothes and boys are the sort of things 14 year olds like Susan are usually most interested in. Electromagnetism, genetics and Charles Dickens, unfortunately, are not. Unless, of course, the teacher makes them interesting.

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DES

Teaching brings out the best in people.

Kate Muir speaks to the Duke of Devonshire, host of next week's very private Middle East conference

Lending a patrician air at the summit

Decisions, decisions. The life of a duke is not an easy one. A recent concern was: which room? With 175 to choose from at the family seat, which painted ceiling, which set of tapestried pillars, which gilded chandeliers would be the surroundings most conducive to a private Middle East peace conference where Arabs, Jews and British politicians could talk, unobserved and unpressured?

The eleventh Duke of Devonshire decided on a tennis-court sized drawing room with an excess of mirror on the second floor, and a pleasant aspect over the fountains to the hills of Derbyshire. "We don't want the chairs too uncomfortable, but on the other hand if they're too soft they may nod off," muses the duke, drawing on his expertise in hosting coffee mornings, lectures and horse shows at Chatsworth.

The gathering next week, however, is in a different league. Although hosted by the duke, it is organised by the Next Century Foundation, an alliance of politicians and businessmen which aims to promote peace in the Middle East. The 24 names around the dinner table will include Arab ambassadors, a former Israeli minister, prominent Palestinians, Arab and Jewish industrialists, as well as Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, Peter Shore, the Labour MP, Sir Barney Heyhoe, the Tory MP, Sir Richard Luce, the former arts minister, Lord Beloff, the eminent historian, Merlyn Rees, the former Labour Home Secretary, and David Gore-Booth, a Middle East specialist from the Foreign Office. The Israelis and Palestinians remain anonymous; after when an Israeli peace campaigner was imprisoned this week for merely meeting Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader. "The security", confided the duke, "has come as something of a shock."

The duke — full names Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish — is delighted to be dunked deep into politics again, having dipped in and out of it for so long, as a (former) SDP supporter in the Lords, and earlier as a twice-failed Conservative parliamentary candidate, and a junior minister. "I hope people can come here privately and talk off the record for a couple of days without having to pay attention to their public positions. The point is to show willing, and maybe informal connections made here will bear fruit somewhere else later." He pauses. "And of course we'll give them a good dinner."

Judging by the fresh coffee, homemade biscuits and offer to join the duke for a stiff drink rather early in the day, the hospitality will be generous. His Grace is busy in the study, which he refers to as his sitting room. "I do more sitting than studying, you see." The ceiling up in the distance is painted like a minor chapel; there are patterned pillar paintings on easels where hanging space has run out, and walls of books.

Amid all the grandeur, the duke, despite his guardsman's height, looks built on too small a scale. As



A tenant in the family home: the Duke of Devonshire is proud of having never had to rely on public money for the upkeep of Chatsworth. Instead, 300,000 members of the public traipse through the house every summer

the butler opens the door, the duke's head and neck protrude, like a surprised tortoise, from a throne-like chair.

He says his interest in Middle Eastern affairs long predates the peace conference. He used to be president of the Conservative Friends of Israel, and got involved in Manchester's large Jewish community when he was chancellor of the university there in the 1980s. Now, he supports the neutral Next Century Foundation — "A good name, because nothing is going to be achieved overnight."

Politics is nothing new to the duke. In the 1960s, he held various posts in the Commonwealth Office, "which I never would have got except for nepotism by Harold Macmillan, my uncle by marriage." Despite a few Tory appointments, the family was always Whig and then Liberal, but broke with the party over home rule for Ireland. When the duke left the Conservatives for the Social Democrats in 1981, it was

largely for "sentimental reasons". Now, on the cross-benches, he takes more interest in foreign affairs. "I really cannot take any part in domestic politics. If you're as rich and privileged as I am you cannot start weighing in about what you think of the National Health Service." He looks slightly depressed. "I suppose..." — he waits to pounce on the word — "transport is a reasonable subject one could talk about."

For one of the ruling aristocratic elite, he is humble to a fault. Perhaps it is because he was born a younger son, and never intended for the dukedom. But when his brother was killed in the war, he suddenly became the heir. And Deborah, "Debo", one of the Mitford sisters, who had married him in 1941 with only his officer's pay to look forward to, became the Duchess of Devonshire. At the time she wrote to her sister Diana, then Lady Mosley: "I expect we shall be terrifically [sic] poor, but think how nice it will be to have as

'If you're as rich as I am you cannot start weighing in about what you think of the National Health Service'

many dogs and things as one likes without anyone to say they must get off the furniture." Now, £121 million richer, the only sighting of the Duchess on this visit is of her shooting down the corridor, followed by two of the aforementioned dogs.

This year, the duke and duchess celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and invited 1,000 Derbyshire couples, who had also been married for 50 years, to join them for a cream tea on the Chatsworth lawn. The gesture was typical of the Duke's rampant paternalism. He pays the poll tax for his employees and pensioners who live with their families in a community of 750 in two villages

on the estate, with access to a private nine-hole golf course, tennis court and a swimming pool. It is not surprising that estate workers rarely leave. "That's our luck," the duke says. "There are really marvellous people here. Very high quality, and several families have been here for five generations." Chatsworth has 300,000 paying visitors in an average summer. "We do very much encourage the public to come here, and they don't have to pay to use the park. It's lovely sitting here and listening to children playing rounders and cricket. I think one would feel very uncomfortable if they weren't there. And you see hardly any litter."

He is proud that not a penny of public money has gone into Chatsworth, which "turned into a charitable trust to prevent the estate being eaten into by death duties. He now rents his 30 private rooms from the trust. When his father died, inheritance tax was 90 per cent, and it was only by selling some of the best Old Masters and later setting up the charity that the house and grounds survived intact. Still, the leftovers of the art collection are not to be sniffed at, with works by da Vinci, Raphael, Rubens and Rembrandt.

The duke works for charities other than his own. At 71, as he becomes increasingly short-sighted, he has taken up the Royal National Institute for the Blind, among others. Sounding like a Miss World contestant, he says: "I do it because I so enjoy meeting people". He finds sport crosses conversational barriers with strangers, and says knowing a little bit about the local football team takes the average peer a long way.

This week, the duke's ice-melter concerns Gaza — his life, his injuries, his future. "I do hope he doesn't go the same way as Best. The boy's as daft as a brush, and under all that pressure." He shakes his head despairingly. "What he needs is a good aunt or someone to look after him... I say, what about Wales being beaten by Western Samoa?"

Underneath the aura of battiness there lurks a canny businessman, or at least a man with a good accountant. He may sell Old Masters, but at the same time he is quietly building up his private cache of paintings by Lucian Freud and Gwen John. He has six racehorses and, although this year was "appalling", every so often a win on the track buys a few more paintings. Or, more likely, art is traded for horseflesh. He likes the game of chance. The duke once said a world without bookmakers would be as unthinkable as Trafalgar Square without the lions. But then, he can afford to take risks.

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Young views on the box

Winners of Channel 3 franchises will, in part, have children's opinions to thank

Jean Richards would like to invite children, possibly your children, to consider television viewing as "homework". Parents may consider Mrs Richards a dangerous subversive and hope she never knocks on their door but she, or someone very like her, may do just that.

Mrs Richards is a researcher for the Young Viewer's Panel, a body which invites children aged between four and 15 to become television critics, keeping "diaries" of what they do and do not enjoy. And if the opportunity to watch television legitimately is not encouragement enough, the panel also offers children the opportunity of winning £25 in a monthly draw, a quarterly newsletter and an annual competition (this year, there were ten prizes of £15 each).

In the interests of her job Mrs Richards visits 18 houses a day (including Christmas Day) and wears out one pair of shoes a month. Some parents, it is true, do not welcome her into their homes, but not for the reason most might assume. Mrs Richards has been surprised by the number of fathers who have come home during her initial interview with the children (which the mother has agreed to) and booted the questioner out: "Some are worried that I'm really here to check their television licences," she says.

What is she there to do? The purpose of the Young Viewer's Panel, set up five years ago by a research company commissioned by the Broadcasters

Audience Research Board, is to provide independent research on children's viewing habits to the ITV companies and the BBC. This, along with ratings and specially commissioned market research surveys, will have helped the Independent Television Commission (ITC) panel sift out the worthy competitors for children's prime viewing in their considerations for the Channel 3 licences, expected to be awarded next week.

Sue Elliott, a senior ITC television programming officer, says the Viewers' Panel research "is good background help which builds a picture of what is and is not popular on the most basic level."

A total of 1,000 children are selected from the Royal Mail post code address file. "But if the panel is short, say, of boys in the four to six age group in a certain part of the country, we send interviewers to knock on doors," says Peter Meneer, the head of the BBC's broadcasting research department.

The children who are selected are part of the panel for two years. Once a month they fill in eight or so sheets of multiple choice questions (known as diaries) in order to give their verdict on the children's programmes that have caught their eye during the set week in that month.

The Children's Channel, a pan-European station delivering children's programmes 12 hours a day, says the children's television top ten is



The money or the box: children are targeted for surveys and offered the chance of cash prizes

Neighbours, *Coronation Street*, *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*, *Children's Ward*, *Alphonso Bonzo*, *EastEnders*, *New Adventure Mouse*, *Top of the Pops*, *Byker Grove* and *Woof*. Mrs Richards, from her experience, would agree with *EastEnders* (from age four upwards), *Neighbours*, *Top of the Pops* and the American cartoons, and add to them *Sesame Street*, the new style *Playdays* and detective thrillers (*Inspector Morse*).

Parental comment is not invited in her research but Mrs Richards gets it anyway. "Many complain about bad accents and language on children's programmes and they also moan about unsuitable programmes being screened too early." Children moan about news programmes.

Children under 13 like filling in the forms, says David Hollis, a report writer for BBC broadcasting research. They see it as a "sort of school project". But after that age, apathy sets in and the drop-out rate can be as high as two-thirds before their two-year panel stint is up. Interviewers are now asking some parents for phone numbers so that they can experiment with conducting telephone assessments in areas where there has been a low response rate.

Mr Hollis says that although some older children prefer

monosyllabic responses such as "rubbish" or "great", others express their views better than many adults.

Anna Home, the head of children's programmes for the BBC, admits that the forms "are not a highly scientific way of measuring children's re-

actions although they are a useful aid". But has Ms Home ever done anything drastic to a programme as a result of her team of junior critics? She has to admit she has not.

JANE BIDDER

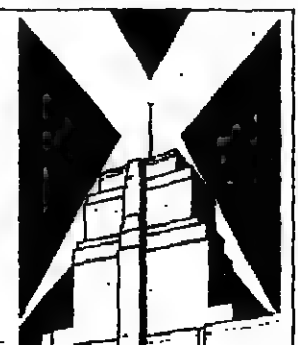
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GALLERIES: LONDON

Portraits in decadent rouge

From prancing horses to dancing girls, Toulouse-Lautrec captured French life with unrivalled veracity. Richard Cork visits the Hayward Gallery's dynamic retrospective

Soon after the adolescent Toulouse-Lautrec broke both his thigh-bones in successive accidents, he painted a spirited little study of an artilleryman saddling his horse. With a bristling, quicksilver expectancy, neck straining forward, it seems the air and long to follow the other horse already galloping off in a haze of hoof-dust.

Lautrec himself shared this sense of yearning. The more crippled he became by a rare bone disease, the more he viewed the idea of untrammelled movement with frustrated excitement. His congenital disability surely helps to account for the outstanding intensity of the early horse paintings which give the Hayward Gallery retrospective such initial dynamism.

In 1880, when he was still only 16, Lautrec spent a convalescent holiday in Nice. The sight of his father Count Alphonse driving his mail-coach along the Promenade des Anglais provided an ideal subject, and the vivacity of the four horses is defined with precocious assurance.

No wonder that an equestrian painter, Rene Princeteau, became his first teacher. Lautrec painted a satirical yet affectionate portrait of his deaf and dumb mentor, palette in hand, and staring at a stuffed fox's head on the studio wall. Princeteau, for his part, called the irrepressible Lautrec, "my little monkey", and helped to inspire the most arresting of all his pupil's early paintings. Called *Abduction*, it shows a naked man riding bareback as he clasps a Sabine-like woman to his side. But the most mesmerizing part of the picture is the horse itself. Charging frantically forward, the animal appears to be flying above the ground. Its front legs are splayed outwards in dramatic diagonal thrusts, as ecstatic as any of the dance movements Lautrec would later delight in capturing at the Moulin Rouge.

Within a year of completing *Abduction*, he decided to cock a snook at the vogue for mythological fantasy. With the help of his fellow-students, Lautrec painted a colossal copy of Puvion de Lavallee's pallid allegory *The Sacred Grove with the Arts and Muses*. The classical figures

who people the original painting have been retained, but they are reduced to faded phantoms. Far more substantial are the men in contemporary dress inserted among the trees. Deliberately jarring, they include a tiny back-view of Lautrec himself, urinating in the grass.

It was a decisive, almost programmatic act of defiance. From now on he devoted himself to the present rather than a fictitious past, gravitating instinctively towards a world divorced from the aristocratic cocoon of his childhood. Leaving provincial Albi far behind, Lautrec made Paris his home. And when the Moulin Rouge opened in October 1889, he immediately placed its

effervescent performances at the heart of his work.

Commissioned to promote the delights of this notorious dance-hall, he produced his first great poster by stripping the design of all superfluities. Nothing distracts our eyes from the provocative contrast between the two unlikely partners. Silhouetted in the foreground, Valentin "the Boneless", with jutting chin and manipulative fingers, struts beside the high-kick-

ing form of La Goulue, whose skirts burst around her outthrust leg with the force of a bomb.

This inflammatory image made Lautrec's reputation as a master of lineary economy and instantaneous impact. It also ensured that his signature, brazenly inscribed on the tiling floor-boards, would forever be linked with the name of the Moulin Rouge written in triplicate at the top of the poster like a demented chant.

When Lautrec produced a large and ambitious painting of the same subject, though, he disclosed a more ambivalent attitude. Although the design centres on the lithe limbs of a performer in action, he shows a rehearsal rather than the jostling excitement of a night at the dance-hall. The picture's title, *Training the New Girl*, has a ring of Deceit. But Lautrec realised that he was dealing, in this echoing barn of a space, with a world far less gossamer than the ballet. The top-hatted men in the distance have a predatory air, while the woman dominating the foreground in a puce dress is probably a prostitute. Her lowered eyes and stiff, self-conscious detachment dis-



Lautrec's *Etude pour Fille* one of the inflammatory studies which made his reputation as a master

play no interest in the verve of the dancer; she is there for wholly commercial reasons.

The brittle tension in Lautrec's art depends, time and again, on his ability to pin down the sleaziness as well as the allure of his chosen locale. In one picture, the dancer Jane Avril is shown entering the Moulin Rouge. With a limp yellow bag dangling from her arm, and an elaborate yet oddly bedraggled hat, she looks hunched and forlorn. In the exhibit alongside, however, this wan figure has been transformed into an embodiment of acrobatic exuberance. Framed by a line which flows out of the double bass in the foreground, she lifts her right leg into a high-kicking streak of black against the saffron of her foaming dress.

As Lautrec's involvement with dance flowered into infatuation, so he became more conscious of human frailty in general. The saddest and most profound painting in the Hayward show is a grand, carefully mediated canvas called *In the Salon at the Rue de Moulins*. Although the maroon carpet, well-upholstered sofas and grandiose columns indicate that a brothel of some luxury is depicted here, the decor cannot alleviate the disconsolate mood. The most prominent prostitute turns toward her neighbour with apparent warmth. But the other woman does

not return her glance. Rigid, she awaits the arrival of her next client in silence. Like all the room's inhabitants, she seems marooned in an awareness of her own isolation.

Lautrec was too well-acquainted with *maisons closes* to pretend that they were anything other than joyless places, and his depictions of them are surely infected by his gathering despair as well. His innate conviviality filtered in the 1890s, leading to a nervous breakdown and three months in a sanatorium. He rallied long enough, in both body and mind, to produce the loveliest of all his works: an oil called *La Moulins*, as fresh and sensuous as a Fragonard. The substance of paint is handled here with a richness which far surpasses the undernourished pigment in so much of his previous, line-governed work.

But the respite was brief. Having suffered a severe stroke in August 1901, Lautrec died a month afterwards at the age of 36. Since his lifespan could otherwise have lasted until the second world war or beyond, the loss to European art is clearly incalculable.

● Toulouse-Lautrec, sponsored by Pearson, is at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank SE1 (071-928 8900), daily 10am-6pm (Tues. Wed to 8pm) until January 19.

Even here, though, Lautrec is alive to the vulnerability of the diminutive dancer. As he grew older, and his own body succumbed to a punishing amount of alcohol and syphilis, so he became more conscious of human frailty in general. The saddest and most profound painting in the Hayward show is a grand, carefully mediated canvas called *In the Salon at the Rue de Moulins*. Although the maroon carpet, well-upholstered sofas and grandiose columns indicate that a brothel of some luxury is depicted here, the decor cannot alleviate the disconsolate mood. The most prominent prostitute turns toward her neighbour with apparent warmth. But the other woman does

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CLASSICAL MUSIC: ORCHESTRAL PREMIERES

Drama with strings attached

Yet another dismally small audience greeted the BBC Symphony Orchestra for its concert of Haydn, Falla and (presumably the spoiler) Xenakis, with the Spanish conductor Arturo Tamayo. Someone, somewhere seems to be failing to perform a fundamental publicising task. Dare one suggest that minds be concentrated on marketing each concert as an individual event — rather than, as at present, spraying the Tube with posters telling of the whole series?

Xenakis's new concertante

violin piece, *Dax-Ork*, occupied the centre of the programme. Its title apparently means something stringy and something to do with orchestra, and it is a typically colourful, dense, pugnacious and extended explosion of sound, the scene set by loud woodwind clusters and the soloist's microtonal wails.

This violin line sounds like some primeval tubulation, while the surrounding and colliding textures, erupting in savage, volcanic spurts, first in one section of the orchestra and then another, lend an

immense dynamic energy to the piece. A catharsis of some kind is reached when a passage of jagged antiphony leads to a sustained chord and a winding-down solo cadenza.

The effect of the piece is dramatic and grand, and the demands made upon the soloist — here the cool and confident Irvine Arditi — are formidable. Yet on first hearing, one is tempted to ask (as so often with Xenakis) if substance lies behind the grand design.

Around it was Haydn's Symphony No 83 ("The Hen") — which revealed a few ragged edges in the BBC SO's ranks and Tamayo's reluctance to invest the central movements with much colour or rhythmic buoyancy — and the complete ballet music of Manuel de Falla's *The Three-Cornered Hat*, which was invested with the right folkish flavour, enhanced by the slightly husky tones of Christine Cairns. The swing of the final Jota succeeded in bringing a festive air even to this deserted hall.

The previous evening, under the baton of Elgar Howarth, the London Sinfonietta presented two new commissions from German composers within the formidable framework of music by Harrison Birtwistle. Hans-Jürgen von Bose's *Scene*, an energetic coming together and building up of disparate ideas in a whirligig of colours,

rhythmic games and rapid alternations of motion and stasis, impresses through its technique and sheer inventiveness, though it perhaps over-extended. Indeed, the composer himself admits to an interest in the idea of

labyrinths, which of course can go on for ever. His colleague Detlev Müller-

Siemens's *Tom-a-Bedlam*, scored for six singers (the London Sinfonietta Voices), wind quintet and string quintet, adventurously sets an anonymous 17th century poem, using some ingeniously evocative, complex sounds that keep the words, as it were, aloft.

Neither work, however, achieved the distilled elegance of Birtwistle's *Four Poems* by Jan Kaplinski, sung by Sarah Leonard, which was receiving its London premiere. Nor did they approach the expressive intensity and eloquence of the same composer's *Ritual Fragment*, which received a particularly fine performance.

STEPHEN PETTIT



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ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre, dance,
concert and jazz
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RECORDS: JAZZ AND ROCK

A blow by blow battle

JUST as the gunfight is part of Hollywood mythology, so the "tenor battle" occupies a special niche in jazz. Here is the opportunity for a grizzled veteran to reassert his supremacy, and for the young blade to step up to the bandstand and make a name for himself. When challengers are at their most aggressive, audiences can expect to see blood flow.

The desperados assembled on *Alone Together* are five up-and-coming American saxophonists, all in their early twenties and — with the exception, perhaps, of Todd Williams — all unknown in this country. The idea behind the session was to set up a series of duets, interspersed with solo features and a finale where all five players slug it out on the Sonny Stitt tune "The Eternal Triangle".

This last piece tends to encourage grandstanding rather than genuinely creative soloing. Far better to concentrate on the individual numbers, the ballads in particular, where the differences in timbre and temperament are more pronounced.

The mood is one of diligently honouring past influences, from Gene Ammons to Hank Mobley, Walter

Tough Young Tenors: Alone Together (Antilles Import ANCD-8765)
King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys: Better Beware (Big Bear CD35)

Blanding Jr makes a marvelously unfussy job of Monk's "Ask Me Now"; James Carter takes second place with a series of lush choruses on Billy Strayhorn's "Chelsea Bridge". The 22-year-old evokes shades of Ben Webster. Marcus Roberts, who is the pianist on the session, chimes in with that favourite Ellington device of gently falling arpeggios.

Celebrating the past is also the preoccupation of the Midlands septet King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, though in this case, on *Better Beware*, the burden is worn very lightly.

A value-for-money live act, the band specialises in knockabout rhythm 'n' blues and jumping jive. Not surprisingly, some of the immediacy is lost on record, but this is an ebullient set all the same, the sort of good-time music which will probably be blasting out at office parties during the run-up to Christmas.

CLIVE DAVIS

Raunchy diversion

HAVING sung most of his recent work with a metaphorical piece of straw jammed between his teeth, John Mellencamp has gone right back to the high-voltage, blue collar rock 'n' roll of his youth with *Whenever We Wanted*.

Out goes the responsible family-man rhetoric of his last album, *Big Daddy*, along with all those nice rural colourings of accordion, fiddle and acoustic guitar. Back come the lyrics with attitude: "I Ain't Ever Satisfied", "Crazy Ones", "They're So Tough", loosely drawn around a series of fusty guitar and cowbell riffs, super-hardened for maximum impact.

The logic of the switch from mellow: osts to hell-raising

renewed vigour. Another meticulously-produced catalogue of blue-eyed soul songs, it boasts some of the best tunes and grooves that Hucknall has produced since his *Picture Book* debut of 1985. Highlights include the infectious, rolling piano stomp of "Something Got Me Started" and the winsome chorus of "Your Mirror", although the synthesized twittering in the latter, underpinning the line "even the birds still sing their faithful song" might be laying it on a bit thick.

Erasure's album, *Chorus*, also boasts several good melodies, but there seems to be no advance on their last two outings, and it looks as if keyboardist Vince Clarke — who used to be one of the most restless performers of the Eighties' synth-pop revolution — and singer Andy Bell are content merely to cruise.

Now that synthesizers and drum machines are such old hat, one forgets the confident predictions of ten years ago that "real" guitars and drums were destined to become terminally unfashionable.

If anything, it has gone the other way, and up in the Western Isles of Scotland, a young Gaelic-speaking band called Capercaille has fashioned a truly fresh sounding album using accordion, bodhran, fiddle and recorder with just a hint of keyboards and guitar. Featuring the beguiling voice of Karen Matheson, *Delirium* is a delightful, shimmering concoction of traditional and Gaelic music, given a modern twist and a funky undercurrent. It deserves a wide hearing.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Performing with renewed vigour: Mick Hucknall

raunch might seem perverse, given that the album was released on Mellencamp's fortieth birthday, but there are no quibbles about the execution. The key to its success is the devastating guitar playing of David Griesom, whom Mellencamp has either borrowed or stolen from Joe Ely's band. A player who manages to combine melodic precision with immense power, Griesom provides strong and graceful binding for Mellencamp's concise, neatly-parcelled songs.

Mick Hucknall, who is Simply Red these days, looks a lot fitter than he used to, and Stars seems to reflect his

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Peter Stothard reports from Washington on a dirty campaign to bar Clarence Thomas from the Supreme Court

Geraldine Ferraro, former Democrat vice-presidential candidate, has been recalling how, as an 18-year-old typist she was sexually harassed by her boss. "He used to stand behind me very close and jiggle my chest," she said this week, "and when he called me into his office at Christmas bonus time, I knew very well what he was trying to do and I quit the job."

Mrs Ferraro has only just recovered from her last visit to the low zones of American politics. In 1984, she was the victim, pursued to ignominious defeat by allegations about her husband's life with the Mafia. Today, as opponents of supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas close in for their kill, she is campaigning to become a New York senator and enthusiastically joining the huntman's pack.

In an unprecedented televised inquisition today, Judge Thomas must answer allegations from his

former personal assistant that he asked her for "dates" in the early 1980s and that, when she refused, he discussed pornographic movies and the best sexual positions for people and animals. If he cannot answer these charges, his chances of confirmation are slim.

He will not, of course, be able to deny that he was a sexual harasser, for the alleged events happened ten years ago. Anita Hill, his accuser, is now a calm and persuasive professor of law. She has not even characterised Judge Thomas's actions as harassment, which is a criminal offence. She merely wants his "behaviour" to be taken into account.

This is where Mrs Ferraro and her friends come in. The road to today's bizarre hearing began when a pro-abortion lobby heard of the Hill allegations from one of the professor's friends. The senate judiciary committee was tipped off. The judge's opponents, who

were patiently waiting for the Democrat senators to trip him up under questioning, were delighted that this extra weapon was in the committee's hands.

By last weekend it was clear that Judge Thomas had revealed nothing about his attitude to abortion. His confirmation seemed secure. But the sexual harassment allegations had been kept secret — at Professor Hill's own request, the senators claimed. Hurriedly they were leaked again, this time to sympathetic journalists. The emphasis was now not only on the events in Clarence Thomas's old Education Department office, but on the failure of the all-male judiciary committee to follow up

Sexual judgment



Hill: sexually harassed?

the potentially devastating line of attack. Suddenly the conservative judge was a symbol of American Man's refusal to realise what American Woman has to endure in her daily work. "The ol' boys

just don't get it," rose the cry. Mrs Ferraro and others rummaged through their memories.

As the women's groups marched, there was a nasty sense in senate corridors that something new was happening. This was not the usual Washington game of sexual Space Invaders, routinely played by enemies of such as Jack Kemp, Tom Foley, Chuck Robb and President Bush himself. This was different from the anonymous senate testimony of "womanising and drunkenness" which helped bar John Tower from the Pentagon in 1989.

Smearing has always been the obverse of democratic accountability. The broader the consti-

tency, the more tempting has smearing become. It may be that few television viewers understand Judge Thomas's theory of natural rights, but everyone understands sex. The "character issue" has become as essential a part of Washington politics as the chicken dinner, although this week, one would think that the city had never before seen the secret assassin's slime-trail.

The real abnormality in this whole affair may be yet to come. Even if Clarence Thomas is defeated, his successor is likely also to be an opponent of abortion rights. The Roe v Wade judgment, which for almost twenty years has protected abortion as a highly vulnerable

Although some analysts have warned that American women might fight for their rights through the ballot box, conventional wisdom has so far decreed that

abortion will never determine a national campaign. This week, a women's issue bit the political surface and the White House did not like the result. It was a shock to see the normally unflappable senate majority leader, George Mitchell, standing up before his peers like a drunken conductor who has lost his place in the score. It will be no less extraordinary today when Senator Edward Kennedy, whose pages in the sexual-political history of America are already assured, gets his chance to quiz Judge Thomas about proper behaviour with women.

Will the committee ask about the vintage porn movies? Will the judge reply? Will he even remember? Will she? The scenario has become worthy of Hollywood itself. Bob Guccione meets Franz Kafka, starring George Bush and Geraldine Ferraro, from an original far-out idea by Thomas Jefferson.

True face of mercy killing

A do-it-yourself suicide book is the final obscenity, says Daniel Johnson

Suicide is not a right. It is a mortal sin. It is not merely a denial of hope, a misguided indulgence in fatalism: it can blight the lives of friends and relatives. Euthanasia pressure groups such as the Hemlock Society prey on the primordial fears of the sick, the old and the clinically depressed.

Yesterday it was reported that the society's founder, Derek Humphry, has lost his depressed and gravely ill former wife, Ann, who apparently killed herself in accordance with the advice given in his do-it-yourself book *Final Exit*. Even some of those who deplore her death may be seduced by the notion that suicide and "mercy killing" are excusable, even humane. Just as all kinds of depravity can be justified as "alternative lifestyles", so euthanasia has become an alternative deathstyle.

The name of the Hemlock Society is an allusion to the death of Socrates, and the famous suicides of history and literature are often dragged into the euthanasia cause. The ancient world's attitude to suicide was influenced by its metaphysical convictions: fatalism, cyclical time and a blurring of the edges between divinity and humanity. But classical suicides can be divided into two categories: those like Socrates or Seneca who carried out their own executions, and those like Antony and Cleopatra or the Jews at Massada who preferred death to dishonour.

Christianity drew on the Platonic belief in the immortal soul, but combined this with the Jewish emphasis on a moral law which condemns suicide as an abdication of man's obligations to his creator. Having postulated the sanctity of life as a gift of God, the new religion taught that despair was the ultimate denial of the divine will. Insisting on the individual's responsibility for his actions, both Christianity and Judaism established the principle that no external compulsion could justify suicide.

The modern justification of suicide as a moral "right" was alien to the ancients; even more so the romantic association of suicide with melancholia. Suicide as

a resolution of any moral dilemma, often associated with adulterous or unrequited love, became fashionable when one of the first European bestsellers, Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, seized the imagination in the 1770s. No matter that Goethe himself intended his novel to trace the pathology of a noble mind clouded by what would today be termed manic depression; instead of a terrible warning, Werther became a model. Thereafter, suicide was no longer a taboo.

Once suicide had been legitimised as a moral choice, the way was clear for it to be co-opted into the medical field as "euthanasia". The 20th-century cult of euthanasia was associated with the rise of eugenics and racial theory. Astonishingly, the campaign to make voluntary euthanasia a right survived the involuntary practice of the Nazis, which exterminated hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people before church protests halted it. Suicide was a prominent feature of all the totalitarian systems, but even they did not produce the obscenity of the do-it-yourself suicide book.

Clinical depression is the common factor in most suicide attempts; it is often decisive, even when physical pain or terminal illness are involved. Yet modern drugs and therapeutic methods can cure or ameliorate all but the most severe depressive conditions. It has become a cliché that suicide attempts among the young are usually "cries for help". All too many of them, though, are successful, and the availability of lethal and painless drugs has ensured that many more would succeed if techniques such as those peddled by Derek Humphry were widely known.

Euthanasia and suicide are two aspects of the same evil: the relegation of life to a lower status than well-being. That suffering, emotional and physical, may be the price of participation in the human adventure is ignored by those who preach that life is not an absolute but merely a relative good. Those who must live with the suicidal temptation are not helped by those who seek to elevate their despair into a virtue.

John Major's seaside blues

The prime minister needs to lift his party with a visionary speech, argues Peter Riddell

A WEEK IN POLITICS

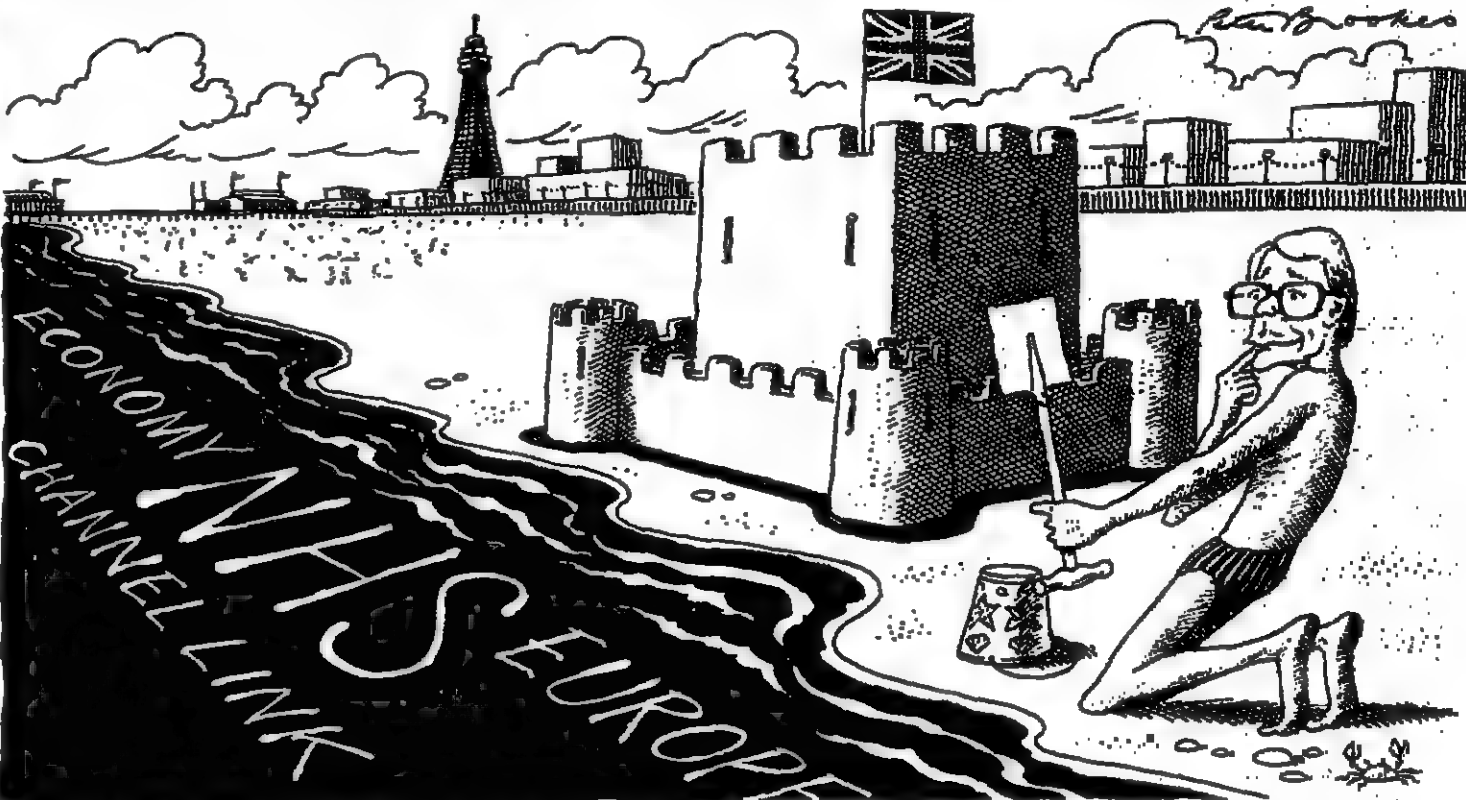
John Major needs to answer a simple question in his speech in Blackpool this afternoon: why should voters return the Tories for an unprecedented fourth term? He has to offer both his party and, more important, the country a sense of direction. That focus has largely been absent from the party conference so far.

The Tories' immediate challenge has been managing the transition from the Thatcher era. The warm reception which Mrs Thatcher received on Tuesday was less a continuing protest at last November's coup than an emotional vote of thanks. It came from the activists' hearts; their heads accept that the change has happened and that the popularity of Mr Major has improved their party's election chances.

The activists' willingness to put the leadership contest behind them was proved by the standing ovation given to the assassin himself, Michael Heseltine, was at his shameless best, scrapping the poll tax with an effortless sleight of hand and taunting Labour with all his old skill. He gave the speech he would have loved to deliver as leader.

Not least of Mr Major's achievements has been to heal the wounds of last November. The cabinet is harmonious; ministers now have a freedom unknown before. Mr Major is first among equals rather than dominant. Douglas Hurd, looking every day more like the wise senior statesman, rules over the Foreign Office. The enigma is Norman Lamont who, unlike, say, Kenneth Baker or Mr Heseltine, tends to undersell himself. For all his adroitness in managing Mr Major's campaign, Mr Lamont does not always act like a political heavyweight. His delivery on Wednesday was wooden, and there was little hint of what he has achieved in the talks on European monetary union or in alleviating the impact of the poll tax.

Mr Lamont's performance was one side of what has been an uneasy week for the Tories. Party managers wanted to show that the government is still fresh and getting on with the job after nearly



12½ years in office. MPs will be kept busy in the coming session. But that is not enough.

Unfortunately for the Tories, the outside world has kept intruding. They do not have the freedom of Labour to propose and oppose with no direct results. They have been constrained by the responsibilities of government. Malcolm Rifkind's announcement of the Channel Tunnel rail link was immediately attacked by both British Rail and Eurotunnel. Mr Lamont's cautious comments about economic recovery and his promise to cut taxes came on a day when the Bank of England intervened to support sterling. Carefully phrased references to the current European talks by both Mr Lamont and Mr Hurd did not answer widespread misgivings within the party. We have not heard the last of the case for a referendum on monetary and political union; some current, as well as former, ministers are sympathetic, in spite of Mr Hurd's opposition.

Above all, the health service has been a problem. Throughout the week, stories have recurred about cuts in services in hospitals which have opted for trust status. William Waldegrave reasonably

argues that Robin Cook is distorting the truth in talking about privatisation since health care will still be free at the point of delivery, while Labour has never explained when and how it will boost spending. But the government is losing the argument in the opinion polls. On television, Mr Cook regularly has the edge over Mr Waldegrave, who sounds defensive and edgy.

Until his speech yesterday, there was muttering about his future; recalling R.A. Butler's famous non-endorsement of Anthony Eden, one fellow minister remarked: "William is the best health secretary we have got." Such talk should now be stifled, for the time being. Mr Waldegrave raised his own morale, and the party's, with a fighting speech. Using the language of One Nation Toryism, he did not back down from the reforms. He roused the conference, always sympathetic to an underdog. But he needs to repeat the performance on television and in the Commons.

Even without these distractions, this week's speeches have amounted to little more than a mixture of defending current policies, attacking inconsistencies in Labour's

approach, and a hope that the economy will recover by the spring. The Tories will naturally try to highlight the areas in which they are already strong in the polls: economic competence, defence and law and order. Mr Baker, who has been subject to widespread criticism recently, forcefully counter-attacked his detractors, offering a message of fire and brimstone, but conceding nothing of substance to the "hangers and floggers".

Much will depend on the "grudge" factor, the extent to which voters blame the government for the difficulties of the late 1980s: the poll tax (which is still with us), high interest rates, accelerating inflation and worries about the health and education services. Together, these grudges amount to a powerful "time for a change" argument. The implicit Tory answer is that there has been a change: that we now have Mr Major as prime minister.

But if the Major government puts too much emphasis on the changes since last November in policy towards public services or Europe, it risks dividing the party. Many of the leaders of Conser-

vative Way Forward are exhausted volunteers, but Norman Tebbit and Cecil Parkinson were still able to attract a large audience of young activists to a fringe meeting proclaiming the true faith.

Within the government, Michael Howard has emerged as one of the leading advocates of "firm adherence to radical reform". In a fringe speech, he argued that the key to Britain's competitive position lies in continuing to cut taxes and reduce the regulatory burden on business. By contrast, while not disagreeing over any details, Chris Patten offered something more like consolidation in his stylish chairman's address on Tuesday. He even conceded that governments make mistakes from time to time, an admission of fallibility rarely heard at recent party conferences.

Mr Major has skillfully bridged these differing tendencies. Today he needs to be more than the adept whip. He has to lift his party by restating his beliefs about the balance between improving public services and cuts in taxation, and about European union. In short, what would Britain be like after a full Major term?



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Yesterday found me in a brooch. It knew where to look. It knew that an ace reporter did not let the grass grow; if the nation was undergoing yet another of those prurient convulsions periodically detonated by a great man's moral hiccup, then it was the bounden duty of everyone with a trenchcoat and a bit of shorthand to raise the double standard high and march towards the sound of the sniggering.

You know me, though: I eschew the easy routes. I am not a man to lurk behind the Kellogg's display in some Balesar Tesco, idly waiting for a fugitive pillar of society to push his trolley past, nor am I, when the editorial copy goes out to round up the usual psychiatrists, content simply to cobble their clichés into another lecture about why men blessed with radiant and fragrant domesticity should occasionally find themselves do/d'd for a certain term to walk the night. I dig deep. If necessary, I am prepared to go back two thousand years.

Or 1912 years, to be precise, which is what we can be in this case. We know the exact hour at which, on August 24, 79 AD, time stood still for lovers, and never started again. We can walk into the little warehouse behind Abbondanza Street and know that one moment the occupants of its five snug cubicles were at it like knives, and the next glassy miasma had whistled through

the tiny window and gassed them where they frolicked. For the earth had moved for them: the top had blown off Vesuvius, and that was that: after a bit, a blanket of pumice dust tucked them in for a couple of millennia, until it was time for caring archaeologists to get their brooms out, because tourists had begun queuing at the gates, waving currency.

Which was where I was yesterday, shot thither by an inaugural Euro Express Daybreak, which leaves Heathrow at breakfast, gets you to Pompeii only 1912 years earlier, and has you back in London for dinner. Plenty of time to learn all there is to know about life in 1st-century Italy, and more than enough if you are an ace reporter intent only upon discovering what it was like to be a Latin lover when they were actually doing it in Latin. Indeed, one of the many ancillary delights of pottering about a Pompeian farmhouse, for those of us once forced to grapple inadequately with Hillard and Botting, is to imagine those old stucco walls echoing to the din of joyful gerunds and ecstatic ablatives shrieked by people able to do it totally spontaneously in the course of doing something else, without having to stop and wonder whether all their adjectives agreed with all their nouns.

Any doubt about what it was they were doing is soon dispelled by a glance at the old stucco itself. The miraculously preserved frescoes are both a menu and a testament to what can be

achieved if you are blessed with roomier premises than a Vauxhall parked, briefly, behind King's Cross station. As for kerk-crawling, it was so sanctioned by the civic fathers that phalluses were chiselled into the paving-stones to indicate the optimum route to crawl, and so graphically that, twenty centuries on, a party of Japanese visitors plodding soberly up Abbondanza Street in front of me suddenly fragmented like a flock of startled pigeons, giggling helplessly and allowing me to nip past into Number VII before the rush. And what a poignant spot it was: five tiny rooms, each with a little stone bed and a little stone pillow, each sporting its fresco depicting the imaginative shenanigans of the ancient lusty, forever pausing and forever young, embracing not merely one another but snuggles 2,000 years younger, in the world's oldest continuum.

As we ace reporters say, it made you think. If you were not careful, you could easily find yourself nibbling at the old chestnut about stone-run brothels, and before you knew it, you might have had to face the one about Pompeii's being dedicated to Venus and how much easier it might be to worship something a little more sympathetic than our own celibate divinities, and soon after that you might even have had to ask yourself how far we have crawled in 2,000 years.

I was too smart to do any of that. I made an excuse and left.

Speech therapy

A LITTLE-KNOWN Cheltenham doctor has emerged as the man responsible for saving William Waldegrave's political career.

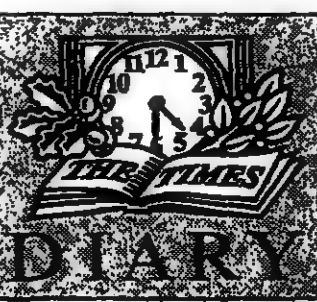
Faced with the task of delivering the most crucial speech of his political life, Waldegrave rejected most of the advice from Tory central office's public relations advisers. Instead he put his faith in the wisdom of Clive Froggatt, a National Health Service GP for the last 20 years, who drafted much of his speech. Waldegrave's wife, Caroline, also took a prominent role in the writing. The result was, most observers felt, a considerable success.

Waldegrave drafted his first thoughts for the speech almost three weeks ago. Froggatt, a former Tory county councillor, was then given a copy, as were three other advisers. They added to the speech and restructured it before

Now, say Ah!



Waldegrave took it away for further work. After several rewriting sessions, Froggatt alone was invited to take a critical look at the revised version in the health secretary's Whitehall office last week. In a pre-booked rehearsal room



in Blackpool's Imperial Hotel on Tuesday night, Waldegrave's advisers gathered to hear him read it aloud for the first time. Froggatt, Caroline Waldegrave, Richard Marsh, his special adviser, and Ian Taylor, his parliamentary private secretary, were present.

Froggatt, aged 43, who was in the conference hall to hear the speech, says: "I don't want to take the credit for this. It was William's speech first and foremost." But he was not responsible for the references to "Arthur Daley", the television character from *Minder*. Those were all Waldegrave's own work. Apparently, he is a great fan.

Ring off

WHILE much of what occurs on stage has received a critical drubbing, the conductor, Bernard Haitink, has been cheered to the rafters nightly at Covent Garden's new Ring cycle. But it is a far cry from one of his ambitions: to stage a "Ring for the masses" at the Albert Hall, with cheap seats. Haitink was excited at the prospect of staging such a project, when Covent Garden was due to be closed for rebuilding in 1993 and 1994. But now, with the closure delayed at least until 1996, there must be doubts about whether Haitink, who is thought unlikely to renew his contract next year, will ever fulfil his dream.

Haring about

PLAYWRIGHT David Hare reveals that he had to turn investigative journalist to write *Murmuring Judges*, which opened at the National Theatre last night.

"I spent a day going from a very posh lunch at the Middle Temple with barristers and judges to a south London police station for the afternoon and then to a prison in the evening," he says. Divisions between the three branches of British law are so rigid that he was probably the only person in London to have had direct experience of all three on the same day. "We have three concentric circles, and I wanted to bring the three together, which nobody ever does."

All three are like trade unions, he says. "The police want to keep their power and have nothing to do with lawyers, while lawyers and judges want to have nothing to do with the police. And then nobody has anything to do with people in the prison service, who feel most aggrieved."

So Gorbachev wants the old Soviet Union to be known as the Union of Free Sovereign Republics. In Russian, this translates as *Soyuz Svobodnykh Suverennykh Respublik*, which conveniently allows the country to keep the Cyrillic initials CCPR, which emblazon everything from space stations to the napkins in embassies around the world. Already the cynics are suggesting that Gorbachev's main stipulation for the new name was that it should save money.

Green Pooh-Bah

YESTERDAY'S appointment of Robin Herbert as chairman of the trustees at Kew is rather like making the chancellor of Cambridge University simultaneously chancellor of Oxford. For Herbert is also president of the Royal Horti-

cultural Society, and so now holds the two most important jobs in his field. Herbert began as a schoolboy "growing pots of geraniums in my room at Eton". By the time he was 16, he had inherited a ten-acre garden in Wales, which he now tends only at weekends, because of his banking career in London. "One can do both jobs," he says. "The only thing that will suffer is time for my own garden."

Tim Renton has had the best collection of all. While fellow ministers have been hard at work at Blackpool, the arts minister has this week been hard at work seeing the last production in the aforementioned Ring cycle, visiting a private view of the Toulouse-Lautrec exhibition on the South Bank (where he joined in the Can Can), being interviewed by Jimmy Young about National Music Day, and attending the Sumo wrestling at the Albert Hall. But yesterday was not so good. He was in Blackpool listening to his ministerial colleagues.

Pages of history

IN THE search for a compromise over how to pay tribute to Bomber Command's role in the war, plans are afoot to produce a sumptuous, hand-crafted volume detailing the courage of individual pilots, engineers and navigators. "This would be a much less controversial way of recognising their courage than the proposed statue of Arthur Harris," says former Hurricane pilot John Golley.

Golley plans the work as a companion volume to his book *So Few*, celebrating the exploits of Battle of Britain pilots, which was recently presented by John Major to George Bush. "Something must be done for these Bomber boys. I'm red hot to go to do it," says Golley in ripest RAF language.



UNHEALTHY POLITICS

The great health service row remains, after another week of bludgeoning of and by ministers, what it has been all along—a synthetic political squabble devoid of substance. Were Labour to be in power today, its leaders would be wrestling with identical problems of allocating roughly similar resources. It would be wrestling to free itself from producer dominance and to give consumers more freedom and choice. And it too would have to tackle London, whose hospitals are monuments to three decades of producer dominance and pusillanimous government.

In pursuing long overdue changes, the Conservatives are handicapped by an image of lack of care for public-sector services generally. Margaret Thatcher's impatience with that part of the economy for which her government was custodian for a decade is a heavy burden on the shoulders of her successors. The tax boost to private medicine was a foolish gesture of antagonism. Yet the Tory party is not opposed to the NHS: it has become acutely aware of the electoral importance of backing it.

The NHS has even taken over from the army and the police as the department most favoured among backbenchers. William Waldegrave and his predecessors as health secretary have won most of the spending battles with the Treasury. But as long as health is a public-sector service, unreformed and undelegated and with every decision open to challenge in Parliament, so long will Labour be able to stigmatise the Conservatives as not really believing in it.

Mr Waldegrave has had other obstacles to surmount. Since the NHS changes are designed to improve value for money from the health service—which means using the language of costs and benefits—it is peculiarly easy for opponents to charge that the reforms "put money before health". The real scandal is not that modern management has at last caught up with the NHS, but that so much of the £33 billion a year that the service costs is spent without proper consideration of priorities.

Since picking up the poisoned chalice, Mr

Waldegrave has gone to some lengths in redefining these terms, in changing customers back to patients. Leaders of the doctors, nurses and manual ancillary workers have pretended that demand for health is a limitless right. Such economic illiteracy may do credit to their trade union single-mindedness, but does none to their status as responsible "carers".

For both reasons, Labour has found it easy to pursue its campaign against Mr Waldegrave and his colleagues. In doing so it has managed to wrongfoot successive health secretaries. The reforms were delayed as consultations stretched from months to years under Norman Fowler and then under Kenneth Clarke. Then rash concessions were made to buy off political unpopularity, notably the nurses' pay and grading settlement in 1988. This gave the whole NHS a belief that the cabinet would pay a king's ransom to have its reforms accepted by staff.

Finally plans to tackle the chaos of London's hospitals were put off again and again, until, with utter predictability, the opting-out arrangements brought chickens home to roost. Now Mr Waldegrave seems to be backing away from further opting out in London pending a survey of hospitals in the capital. The internal market may be the chosen means of reordering in-patient priorities elsewhere in the country. But in the capital, as with privatised bus services, markets are suddenly a less than ideal form of resource allocation for a Tory party with its back to the wall.

Such is the power of the producer lobbies for which Labour is now a near-hysterical spokesman. Labour has not come forward with a single new good idea. The cynicism with which Robin Cook and Harriet Harman have sought to promote their claim that the Tories really mean to privatise the NHS has been shameful. British politics now finds it almost impossible to debate such reforms to the political economy in other than the most partisan terms. And for this unhealthy state, both parties must take the blame.

QUALITY SCREENING

The fate of some of the great names of British television, including Thames, Granada and LWT, is today in the hands of the ten members of the Independent Television Commission. Unless they need to meet again, their decision is expected to be made by the weekend. The ITC's duty must be to preserve above all the quality of the service, if necessary by pushing the rules under which it has to operate to the very limits of their lawful interpretation.

The government's original method for distributing the new licences to broadcast—merely giving them to the highest bidder—had no merits beyond simplicity. By trying to adjust the method to meet trenchant criticism, including some from its own backbenchers, even that virtue has been lost. The task facing the ITC is now of staggering complexity, and involves subjective judgments which are almost impossible to make. No way should anything like this auction ever be repeated, and significantly not a single minister is now prepared to claim credit for the exercise.

First, the ITC has to weed out any bids which do not pass a "quality threshold" set by itself. Under the broadcasting bill as originally drafted, its only task would have been to see that the highest bids were financially viable. But the bill was amended in passage not only to include this test but also to allow the ITC to set aside a higher bid if "exceptional circumstances" warranted it. The extent to which these vague phrases can be stretched to protect the public interest is now for the ITC itself to decide. The public interest never lay in extracting some £200-£300 million from the commercial television sector as a windfall to the Treasury and does not lie in squeezing the last £5 million now.

The phrase "exceptional circumstances" was conceded by the government to answer the charge that it was bent on wiping out the public-service element in commercial television. The only interpretation of this phrase which makes sense, therefore, is to turn it into a bias in favour of quality. But even that

cannot mean simply comparing the programmes on offer and selecting the most attractive package for each region.

Bidders bid blind. They had to guess what the other bidders were submitting, and then add a few million in the hope of exceeding them. Some bidders desperate not to lose their franchise, such as TVS with its £60 million, went high; Central, because it had no rival in its region, offered a derisory figure variously reported at between £2,000 and £1 million.

The high bidders need to convince the ITC that the capital they must raise to give to the Treasury will not so denude programming budgets as to make their promises of quality impossible to deliver. But the business plans submitted with the bids must make guesses about the rate of recovery from recession, particularly in the advertising industry. Who can possibly know? Yet if a high-bidding company gets it wrong and yet wins its franchise, it may face bankruptcy.

To stave off bankruptcy, such companies may be tempted to abandon their more ambitious programming promises. The ITC may then have to decide whether to cancel the franchise licence; and before that point is reached, whether to allow networking to function in a way which will cushion companies in trouble. Relations between impoverished companies and rich ones, as they sit down to discuss their contributions to network scheduling, will be turbulent, especially after 1994 when the richer ones will be free to take over ailing neighbours.

All this is quite different from the government's early dreams of a free market in television, regulated only to ensure minimal standards. The ITC is now left to make the best of a very bad job. The public interest would be served by setting the quality threshold high, and preferring those companies which have proved they can produce good programmes rather than those that merely make promises.

PUBLICANS AT BAY

The Tory party is traditionally the party of the brewers, of Youngers and Guinness. Once that meant that it was also the party of the publicans. Publicans and brewers co-existed, in a cosy conspiracy against their customers, called the tied house. The brewers made their money because, in tied houses, they were the monopoly suppliers of beers, spirits and fruit machines. So they let the publicans off lightly with low rents and free maintenance.

Then along came a Tory government with radical instincts. Following a report from the Monopolies Commission, tied houses were cut back. Rents are now being increased twofold and more, as the brewers seek to recoup what they no longer collect through the tills. Many publicans do not like it, and yesterday they descended on Blackpool to press their case.

Economics would give them short shrift. If they cannot stand the heat of a market rent, they should get out of their kitchens. But sentiment is on their side. They appeal to an older Tory tradition, the tradition that loves Old England, dislikes change, and cares for venerable institutions. No more will England be a land of thatched inns overlooking village greens where gnarled ploughmen play cribbage over a pint of wallow. In will come theme pubs, music pubs, pubs with electronic games and pubs where the "usual" is Belgian brown laced with cherry juice.

At Wembley this week, the world of this alternative pub was on display at the innovative '91 exhibition. It cannot be said to be a pretty sight. There are machines to turn tap water into ersatz Pilsner. There are Test-Coolz cocktails in test tubes (no glass needed, thus no washing up). There are deep-frozen Chinese dumplings. If that is what competition produces, the traditionalists might argue, Britons want less of it.

But this is to underestimate the meliorative powers of competition. In the 1950s and 1960s, for every Ambridge Bull there were a hundred dingy drinking dens—no food, no wines, no fun. They could not compete with the growing range of alternative entertainment. The brewers then tried the plastic pub with Mother's Pride ploughmen and keg beer. Their customers preferred wine bars.

Now we are in the middle of a third and more diffuse revolution. There is the pub as entertainment centre, with live music, alternative comedy or televised sport. There is the pub as mid-market restaurant, with an international menu of microwaved dishes. There are the new village pubs, modelled on the best of the old village pubs but with far higher catering standards. Nobody can predict which of these will ultimately prosper and which fail. What is certain is that the publicans at the conference have as much chance of bucking the trend as they have of stopping the tide on Blackpool beach.

Elimination of nuclear weapons

From Professor Joseph Rotblat

Sir, The announcements by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev that short-range nuclear missiles are to be eliminated, and radical cuts made in other nuclear weaponry, make wonderful news (reports, September 28, October 2, 7). These are momentous steps towards a national policy on a vital aspect of world security.

We should now begin to ponder on the next, more fundamental steps. The present thinking envisages further reductions in nuclear arsenals, down to the so-called minimum deterrent. But is this where we should stop? Can a system in which a few states are allowed to retain these weapons be stable in the long run?

If we (the nuclear weapon states) consider the retention of nuclear weapons as essential to our security, how can such security be denied to other states? The underlying notion that, in our hands, possession of nuclear weapons is a guarantee of peace, while their possession by other states is a danger to peace, is untenable in an equitable society; it cannot be the basis for a stable world order.

We have, therefore, to consider other solutions. Among them is the most radical and oldest objective: the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The very first resolution of the United Nations, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in January 1946, pledged "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction". During the dark decades of the Cold War this objective was seen by many as Utopian, but now it deserves serious consideration.

Nuclear weapons cannot be dismantled. But is this a sufficient reason for their retention? It is a hallmark of a civilised society that it attempts to control, by legislation and international treaties, the undesirable products of technological advances. There is general agreement that chemical and biological weapons should be eliminated and their production and possession banned by international convention. Why should such a convention be ruled out, without a proper study, in relation to nuclear weapons?

The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, a movement of scientists who lend their specialised knowledge to seek means to avert the menace of war, recently started a project on the desirability and feasibility of a nuclear weapons-free world. We bring together scholars of diverse expertise and nationality to study the various aspects of the problem in the spirit of scientific objectivity.

I believe that such studies are necessary and urgent, and should be undertaken by other groups in society. The time has come to seek a permanent solution to one of the most dreadful perils facing mankind.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH ROTBLAT
(President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs),
Flat A, 63a Great Russell Street, WC1.
October 7.

Breast examination

From Mr A. A. Kubba

Sir, The recent breast-examination controversy (report, October 2) raises two important issues. First, health screening cannot only be judged by its life and death value, which tends to cause polarisation, confusion and ultimately apathy. It also undermines confidence in common-sense health practices which in the case of breast examination can enable detection of early disease, thereby avoiding potentially mutilating surgery.

Secondly, in these controversies, women tend to be the losers. Having over the years convinced women that they risk death if they deviated from ritualistic breast examination, often propagated by a plethora of manuals and guides, we now seem to hand them over to the "no-touch" breast-awareness lobby without a clear view of what we are meant to achieve. Surely self-breast examination as a means of achieving breast-awareness is the best of both worlds.

Yours sincerely,
A. A. KUBBA
(Consultant community gynaecologist),
St Thomas' Hospital, SE1.

Asylum and the Tories

From Mr David Burgess

Sir, Mr Peter Lloyd, the immigration minister (October 9), clearly believes that if you repeat a statement enough times people will believe it. Once again we have his assertion that only a minority of those who seek asylum are "genuine refugees"; yet, even on the Home Office's own figures, 89 per cent of those seeking asylum in the UK are given permission to remain as being in need of protection.

Mr Lauder-Frost, writing in the same issue, refers to most of those coming to the United Kingdom as being "economic migrants", like the Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong. That term is not a legal term but a slur, used by politicians who seek to make themselves and those they speak to feel easier about returning numbers of asylum-seekers to the risk of persecution.

During the last two years I have been connected with a court chal-

Civil servants and telling the truth

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, The prime minister has said that Duncan Nichol, the NHS chief executive, a senior civil servant, bound by civil service rules, was justified in stating "what is the truth" (report, October 8). In this he appeared to support the reported statement of Mr Chris Patten that Duncan Nichol was "entitled, and duty bound even, to speak his mind".

Does this mean that all civil servants are entitled to tell the truth as they see it, or only when their perception of the truth coincides with the government's?

Moreover, are we now to conclude that civil servants are no longer bound by the rules of conduct agreed by the government only last year that they must "conduct themselves in such a way as to deserve and retain the confidence of Min-

isters and be able to establish the same relationship with those whom they may be required to serve in some future administration" (Lord Armstrong of Ilminster's memorandum of 1985, reaffirmed by the government last year)?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
General Secretary,
The Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1.

From Miss Mary M. Wait

Sir, As the Labour party is so shocked by the entry of the civil service into party politics, may we take it that it will, in future, refuse to receive any documents leaked by that service?

Yours faithfully,
MARY M. WAIT,
35 Cavendish Street,
Chichester, Sussex.
October 8.

Spread of book price 'charade'

From the Chairman of Books Etc.

Sir, With great sadness my directors and I have joined the price-cutting charade started by Dillons and now Waterstones. We have taken this step very reluctantly, as hitherto our own sales have not been affected by Dillons' activities (on the contrary, most of our London shops have experienced an up-turn in trade); but we cannot afford to allow our customers to believe that books at these two stores are necessarily cheaper than ours.

I remain deeply sceptical of the quantities quoted as having been sold, and indeed of quantities that we ourselves will sell, in spite of the fact that we will be offering discounts of up to 40 per cent on various titles published outside the net book agreement. If necessary we will give 60 per cent or 75 per cent. However, this has been brought to the trade by the actions of one publisher and one bookseller is unequalled in my 35 years as a bookseller.

Waterstones, Dillons and indeed Books Etc. have spent large sums of money on their shops to take book-selling into the latter part of the 20th century. Allowing the entrances of these shops to look like remainder-dealers must be one of the oddest decisions ever made in book-selling.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP JOSEPH, Chairman,
Books Etc. Limited,
122 Charing Cross Road, WC2.
October 8.

From Mr Martin Grindley

Sir, The educational title which Mr Bernard (October 9) found offered at Dillons at a considerable mark-up on the price quoted by the publisher falls into the category of "non-net" textbooks which have been excluded from the net book agreement for many years.

The trade discount to booksellers for this type of book is around 17.5 per cent, compared with 35-45 per cent for normal trade books which would be priced net. Publishers give such a low discount on textbooks because these are in the main intended for bulk supply to order by schools and colleges; booksellers are entitled to add to the recommended price when small numbers are held in stock for retail sale.

Most booksellers would add about 10 per cent to the recommended price, to allow a total gross margin of 25 per cent. When one considers that a recent survey

showed that expenses in bookshops are a total of 28.6 per cent of turnover (Charter Group Survey, 1989-90) this may seem not unreasonable.

Dillons appear to be aiming to make up their gross margin to around the 42 per cent they might expect on a net book. These are not titles which Dillons would discount, as they know students have to buy these books for their education and are thus a captive market.

Mr Bernard's experience is further evidence that the loss of profit on the discounted books at the front of a bookshop will have to be paid for by the customers buying at the back.

Yours faithfully,
M. GRINDLEY
(Managing Director),
Barnes Bookshops Limited,
125 High Street,
Barnes, Middlesex.
October 9.

From Mr Peter Curwen

Sir, Once again you have published a letter (Mr Gibson, October 2) which informs your readers that the abolition of the net book agreement will result in fewer bookshops and fewer titles published. In the latter respect it is noteworthy that there are currently 500,000 titles available, of which remarkably few are stocked in a typical bookshop. This does not indicate that consumers are short of choice.

Furthermore, the proliferation of titles has resulted in short print-runs, leading to ever-higher prices, which is hardly of benefit to consumers. It is often held that a reduction in titles would have severe consequences for the higher reaches of literature. I think it far more probable that there would be fewer gardening books.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CURWEN,
Sheffield Business School,
Pond Street,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
October 2.

From Mr Anthony Powell

Sir, Can anyone explain to me how my current copy of a classic paperback guide to compact discs, published and printed in England but bought at full price in California, cost \$19.95, when here it is priced at £15.99 (approximately \$27)? The two prices are printed alongside each other on the cover.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY POWELL,
10 The Glebe, SE3.

National lottery

From the Managing Director of Vernons Pools

Sir, Philip Green's letter (October 8) and others in a similar vein which have preceded it in your columns continue to ignore the fundamental reason why the introduction of a national lottery would not bring "significant net economic and social benefits to Britain" as Mr Green suggests it would.

The UK gambling market is already virtually the largest in Europe in terms of per capita expenditure and is also the most open and diverse. In addition to a large and long-established football pools industry, there are other substantial market segments served by bingo, bookmaking, casinos and gaming machines which attract participants from a very broad cross-section of the population.

Given the size and unique diversity of the market, there is no basis for repeated claims that a

national lottery would generate significant additional gambling turnover.

In fact, the new advertising and distribution freedoms which would inevitably accompany the introduction of a national lottery would simply result in expenditure being diverted from a variety of current gambling activities of which football pools are certain to be the worst-affected.

What little additional revenue a lottery may generate is likely to be drawn from lower-income groups whose higher propensity to purchase lottery tickets is well documented, most recently in a research study carried out by University College Dublin and relating to the impact of the Irish state lottery.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HUGHES,
Managing Director,
Vernons Pools,
Furness House, Park Lane,
Liverpool, Merseyside.
October 9.

statistics and language should be sought from the plight of refugees.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURGESS,
Winstanley-Burgess (solicitors),
378 City Road, EC1.
October 10.

From Mr Anthony Bilmes

Sir, The immigration minister's letter shows the government's policy to be balanced, caring and reasonable. The whole edifice is then destroyed by the letter from Mr Lauder-Frost, chairman of the Monday Club's foreign affairs committee, whose real and horribly xenophobic objection appears to be that asylum-seekers are "of other cultures and countries".

Perhaps the next opinion poll should be directed towards establishing how representative Mr Lauder-Frost is of Conservative views.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BILMES,
110 The Chambers,
Chelsea Harbour, SW10.

Choice of cricket tour or Oxford

From Lord Butterfield of Stechford

Sir, I was distressed to learn of Philip Weston being forced to choose between captaining his country at cricket and attending Oxford University, my alma mater (report, October 8). Here in Cambridge, Michael Atherton (Lancashire and England) came to see me in his first term at Downing College in exactly similar circumstances—he had been invited to captain the England under-19 side in Sri Lanka that winter.

I phoned the Old Schools and put his situation to our deputy registrar, who immediately asked: "You did say he'd been invited to captain the side?" "Yes." "Well in that case there is a precedent because a few years back a rugby international, Mike Gibson, got leave to lead a British team abroad. So if Downing requests it [meaning will take the academic consequences] we could let Atherton go."

And so it turned out. Atherton went and made runs and after-dinner speeches and matured generally. Like Weston, he was reading history and did his school, Manchester Grammar, and as at Downing credit by getting a reasonable degree.

There are splendid young all-rounders about who are worthy of support from their academic institutions. Yours faithfully,
BUTTERFIELD OF STECHFORD
(Master, Downing College,
Cambridge, 1978-87),
39 Clarendon Street, Cambridge.
October 9.

BT share offer

From Mr W. F. Hill

Sir, I have just received a mail-shot soliciting registrations for the BT share offer, and it occurs to me that with a general election in the offing it could be seen as in the public interest to manage this issue rather better than previous privatisations.

The stated aim is to encourage wider share ownership, but the actual effect on the public is to promote a scramble for the shares in order to make quick profits by promptly reselling them. One consequence has been that the issues are greatly over-subscribed, resulting in derisory allocations of shares, ensuring that any retained as an individual's sole holdings are quite useless in promoting what I presume is the purpose of encouraging wider share ownership, i.e., identification with the interests of capital. If investors want to avoid this trap, they would have to participate in the international institutional tender through a stockbroker.

Two further effects have been noticed. First, by maximising the number of holdings initially held the overhead costs of the issues and of their subsequent disposal have been maximised. Secondly, by allocating to most applicants a fraction of the number of shares asked for, the excess value of cleared cheques is maximised, yielding a short-term loan of substantial aggregate value. I notice that the pending BT issue is being steered towards the new share shops, using an unquantified promise of preference over other registrants. As these shops are mostly in banks, it appears reasonable to hope that applicants will be able to have their accounts debited by only the cost of their allocations.

Dare one hope also that allocation will be by random selection, with a minimum in line with what is considered sensible in ordinary dealing, i.e., around £1,000? It is easy to weight each applicant's chance of selection by proximity of the number asked for to the minimum allocation.

Yours faithfully,
W. F. HILL,
2 Oakridge Close, Stafford.
October 1.

In search of socks

From Lieutenant-Commander J. H. McGivering, RNR (ret'd)

Sir, Mr Peter Sallis' odd socks (October 7) have joined the gloves, ear-rings and fountain-pen tops etc. in that class that lies beneath every household. If he throws his remaining socks away, the missing ones will instantly reappear.

Your obedient servant,
J. H. MCGIVERING,
32 Cheltenham Place,
Brighton, East Sussex.

From Mr I. M. Davies-Llewellyn

Sir, The socks possibly be located in the "Bermuda triangle" of the sock world, which lies between the laundry-basket, the washing-machine and the tumble-dryer? Yours faithfully,
I. M. DAVIES-LLEWELLYN,
9 Erwas, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

From Mrs H. Rowland-Jones

Sir, Buy half a dozen pairs of identical socks and then the subsequent odd socks can be used to make three new pairs.

Yours faithfully,
H. ROWLAND-JONES,
9 Woodfield Road, Cophorne,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

From Mr Alan Price-Talbot

Sir, An entrepreneur would gain much by opening a "sock exchange" and in so doing give new impetus to the "Footsy" index.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PRICE-TALBOT,
Lisvane House, Mill Road,
Lisvane, Cardiff.

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 Breakfast News
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series.
9.30 Conservative Party Conference. Live coverage of the last day's proceedings during which the delegates have the opportunity to discuss a topic of their own choice.
10.00 News. regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays** **10.25 The Family News.** Cartoon adventures (r)
10.35 Conservative Party Conference. Further live coverage from Blackpool including the address by Chris Patten, the party chairman. With news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00.
12.15 Keep Taking the Pains. A documentary examination of the growth of Asian medicine in Britain (r) **12.55 Regional news** and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) **1.50 Liffeline** (r)
2.00 Sport on Friday. The line-up is (subject to alteration): Golf: Charles-final action from the Dunhill Cup; and Racing from Ascot: the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.40 races. The 4.15 race is covered on BBC2, along with golf and show jumping.
3.50 Play. Animated adventures of clumsy penguin **3.55 The Little Green Planet Show.** The fifth of a six-part science series for children (s) **4.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant.** Animated fantasy series about a young hero's quest for legendary Camelot (s) **4.35 Record Breakers** presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. Includes an attempt to break the record for travelling through the 28 locks of the Caen Hill flight on the Kennet and Avon canal between Farnham and Devizes. Bridge Lock.
5.00 Newround 5.10 Grange Hill (r). (Ceefax) (s)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moin Stuart. Weather
6.30 Reporting Scotland. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
6.55 Friday Sportsweek presented by Hazel Irvine and Rob Maclean. Preview of Scotland's crucial game with Ireland in the rugby world cup; and the football team's European cup match against Romania.
7.20 The Insiders. Gordon Campbell, in the company of local actress and singer Alison Burns, explores lesser-known Dundee
7.50 The Scottish Chart. The best-selling pop records
8.00 The Russ Abbott Show. Another collection of madcap comedy sketches. With Les Dennis, Bella Emberg and Stella Hewan. (Ceefax) (s)
8.30 On the Up. The last of the lame comedy series starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire with domestic difficulties. (Ceefax) (s)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lawrie. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Casualty. The format of half a dozen storylines, all converging on the hard-pressed hospital casualty department, has become a bit of a formula but strong writing and an urgent pace usually carry it off. This week the medics have to deal with an innocent bystander who is injured when a car bomb placed by animal rights activists explodes at the wrong time. (Ceefax) (s)



Success in a minor key? Malcolm Arnold reassessed (10.20pm)

10.20 Composer: Malcolm Arnold at 75.
 CHOICE: Instead of doing what arts documentaries often do, which is to promote their subject's latest creation, Kris Rusman's study of Malcolm Arnold has nothing to sell but a lot to discuss. Far from celebrating Arnold's latest work, the Ninth Symphony, the programme reminds us that it was written five years ago and he still to be given a professional performance. The central question is, why Arnold's reputation is not higher. The argument ranges over the quality of his music and whether it has fallen out of fashion and looks for pointers in the composer's own history, his mental breakdowns, his alcoholism and suicide attempts. His output has been prodigious. In six years he composed 81 film scores, as well as important orchestral pieces. He won an Oscar for *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. But critics have been vitriolic. At 70 Arnold looks nearer 80 and says he wishes he had not lived so long.

11.10 Horse of the Year Show introduced by David Vine from the Wembley Arena, featuring the Henderson Masters
12.00am Wogan. Tonight's guests include Frank Bruno, Les Dawson and model Naomi Campbell. Music is from singers Roberta Jay and Mod Priest **12.05am Weather**

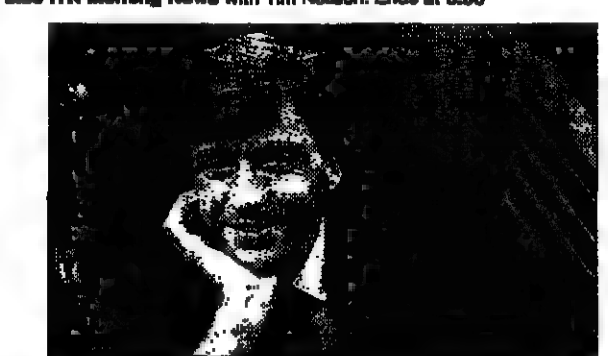
8.00 News
8.15 The Travel Show. John Threlwell's personal view of the Turkish resort of Bodrum (r)
8.20 Health Farm. A visit to Henlow Grange health farm to see what lengths its guests will go to lose weight
9.00 Daytime on Two: Quince Minutes **9.15 Teaching Today** **9.45 Watch: Families Growing Up** **10.00 Look and Read** **10.20 Around Scotland: the Clearances** **10.40 Out of the Doll's House** **12.00 English File** **12.30 Soccer: A Girl's Gang** **1.00 Standard Grade Physical Education** **1.20 The Brits** **1.35 Crystal Tips** and *Alistair* **1.40 English Time**
2.00 News and weather followed by *Words and Pictures*. Reading series for five to seven-year-olds
2.15 Conservative Party Conference. Live coverage of the final session from Blackpool, including John Major's first address as prime minister. With news, regional news and weather at 3.50
4.00 Sport on Friday continued from BBC1. Further coverage of the Dunhill Cup international team golf competition from St Andrews; the 4.15 race from Ascot; and show jumping action from the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley Arena
5.30 Top Gear. Includes Jeremy Clarkson driving the first Lamborghini Diablo to arrive in Britain (r)
6.00 Thunderbirds. Continuing the re-run of the 1960s space age puppet adventure which had BBC2's highest viewing figures for the week when it began three weeks ago. International Rescue are summoned to help a manned space probe on a collision course with the sun (r). (Ceefax)
6.50 SuperSense. An exploration of how different animals use their sense of smell (r). (Ceefax)
7.20 Bilko (b/w). Phil Silvers stars as the resourceful sergeant, in this episode trying to dress up an army jeep to look like a luxury foreign car (r)
7.45 With the Papers Say. John Sweeney of the Observer comments on newspaper coverage of the Conservative party conference and on the tabloid's pursuit of stories in Minorca and California
8.00 Public Eye: Children Leaving Care - A False Dawn. This first of a new series looks at the difficulties young people face when they come out of council care
8.30 Dream Gardens. Long Live the Weeds... Horticulturist Richard Mabey with a personal history of the wild garden, first developed in the 18th century as an antidote to the formalised gardens created by the likes of Capability Brown. Among those he visits are the one in Stanley Gravetye Manor and the not-so-stately back garden of Ken Livingstone's north London home
9.00 Episodes. The second of the adaptations by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson of Gabriel Chevalier's classic comic novel about petty bureaucracy in a French village. Starring Cyril Cusack, Roy Dotrice and Wendy Hiller. The narrator is Peter Ustinov (r)
9.30 The Power and the Glory. The second of a 13-part documentary series on the history of motor racing. This week, the classic road races. (Ceefax) (s)
10.00 Have I Got News For You? Comedy news quiz hosted by Angus Deayton. This week Ian Hislop and Paul Marlow are joined by Alan Coren and Tony Statton (s)
10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman



All aboard: Richard O'Brien on a journey to horror (11.15pm)

11.15 Mystery Train.
 CHOICE: Richard O'Brien, creator of *The Rocky Horror Show*, introduces a new Friday night selection of mystery and horror which is just as likely to have you in stitches as send you to bed with nightmares. The resident item each week is an episode of *The Night Stalker*, the supernatural series made in 1974 and based on the TV movie of the same name which was recently shown on BBC1. This strand opens with wisecracking journalist Carl Kolchak (Darren McGavin) investigating a quadruple murder aboard a luxury liner. *Mystery Train* also includes a schoolboy horror B movie from the 1960s, starting with Nathan Hertz's *The Attack of the 50 Foot Woman*. The title says most of it as the rich and neurotic Nancy (Allison Hayes) has an encounter with aliens in the Californian desert, grows to giant size and seeks revenge on her cheating husband. It is easily bad enough to be funny.
1.00am Weather

8.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. The last in the series of the general knowledge quiz game that offers holidays as prizes, hosted by Richard Madeley (s)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine introduced by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes fashion and make-up news; how to reduce the chances of developing cancer; and Buster Merryfield, granddaddy of *Only Fools and Horses*, mastering a d-dy project. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.15 followed by national weather
12.10 Radio 4. Children's educational series
12.30 News with John Suchet. (Ceefax) Weather **1.10 Thames News** and weather
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Ceefax) **1.50 A Country Practice.** Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s)
2.30 Rugby World Cup 91. Frank Bough introduces live coverage from Twickenham of the pool one game between England, fresh from their convincing victory over the Italians, and the United States. After put up a brave display against the powerful All Blacks, the commentator is Alistair Hignell and the comments come from England international Steve Smith, Gareth Chalkot and Nigel Melville
4.40 Knights. Young people's fantasy adventure game, with puzzles and perils created in a computer-generated dungeon
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Ceefax)
5.40 News with Carol Garmy. (Ceefax) Weather
6.00 6 O'Clock Live presented by Danny Baker. The guests include Julie Lawrence and Kenny Everett. The programme also includes a while-could family putting their fears about unemployment to government ministers. Followed by LWT Weather
7.00 The 1960s. Question. Quiz game show hosted by Bob Monkhouse, with cash prizes (s)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Ceefax)
7.50 You Be! presented by Matthew Kelly and Ellis Ward. Includes efforts to knock over skittles with a football while swinging on a high bar; to identify 20 small model cars in two minutes, blindfold; and a pinpoint hunt for glider landing. The celebrity guests are Freddie Trueman, Bobby Davro and Geoff Capes (s)
8.00 Crime Monthly. Paul Ross appeals for information about unsolved crimes in the London area
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Julie Somerville. (Ceefax) Weather **10.35 LWT News** and weather
10.40 The London Programme. In response to the government's surprise decision to launch a major inquiry into London's health provision, an examination into the reasons behind that decision
11.10 Rugby World Cup 91. Highlights of this afternoon's pool one match at Twickenham between England and the United States, introduced by David Bohn
12.00am Glue Me. The Welsh comedian in action in the spring of this year at the Alhambra theatre, Bradford, before an enthusiastic 2,000-strong audience
1.00 The James White Radio Show. Chat show hosted by the boorish Mr White who delights in insulting his hapless telephone callers (s)
2.10 American Gladiators. Trials of strength and ingenuity for both sexes
3.10 Cinema Attractions. The latest news from Hollywood, presented by Charlie Tuna
3.40 Raw Power. Rock videos (s)
4.35 Garrison's Ghosts. American drama series from the 1960s about the second world war exploits of an irregular platoon of soldiers on secret service in Europe
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00



Questions and answers: Richard Madeley (9.25am, 10.40am)

5.00 The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools
12.00 Profiles of Nature. A documentary about the herring gull which, by virtue of its feeding habits, provides an early warning signal of possible environmental hazards
12.30 Business Daily
1.00 Sesame Street. Award-winning pre-school learning series from the United States
2.00 Conference Report. Live coverage of John Major's address to the Conservative party conference, his first as prime minister, introduced by Jon Snow
3.30 Destination Magoes. Cartoon in which the myopic hero mistakes Coney Island for the moon
3.40 The Marmalade and the Beachcomber. Jean-Francois Laguerie's beguiling animation of the ancient legend about an impossible love
4.00 Blenheim Adult International. Action from the show jumping section of the three-day event introduced by John Francome and Victoria Studd
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game. The questionmaster is William G. Stewart (s)
5.00 The Enclosed Sea. The eighth of ten programmes about the Mediterranean and the people who live on its shores. This week the spotlight falls on the hundreds of harbours which exist along its coast (r). (Teletext)
5.30 I Love Lucy (b/w). Classic comedy starring Lucille Ball as the scatterbrained wife of Desi Arnaz
6.00 Roseanne. Blue-collar comedy starring the rotund Roseanne Barr and the roly-poly John Goodman as her builder husband, in this episode celebrating Thanksgiving Day in their usual wide-cracking way
6.30 Saturday Morning. Showbusiness magazine presented by Ann Bryson and Maria McElrath. Includes a behind-the-scenes report on Elton John's party at the Harrod's; a report on an interview with Eric Clapton; and a report on the New Zealand rugby team
7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas Owen in London and the game show at the Conservative party conference in Blackpool. (Teletext) Weather
8.00 Brookside. Hard-hitting soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s)
8.30 Anton Meismann. Naturally. The seventh in the master chef's eight part series on innovative cooking. Tonight he explores the Japanese approach to food. (Teletext)
9.00 Cheers. Continuing the re-run of the first series of the award-winning comedy set in a Boston bar (r). (Teletext)
9.30 Mushroom Magic. Programme two of Michael Jordan's six-part series exploring the world of mushrooms, their structure and life cycle, the folk lore and the legend surrounding them (r). (Teletext)
10.00 Dream On. American comedy featuring clips from television series and films of the 1950s. Starring Brian Benben and Julie Carmen



Lively banter: Clive Anderson awaits another guest (10.35pm)

10.35 Clive Anderson Talks Back.
 CHOICE: The standard for chat shows continues to be set by Wogan, if only because a good chat show is most things that Wogan is not. The first requirement is that the guests are chosen for their intrinsic interest and not just because they have a new book, play or film to sell. The second is an interviewer willing to put sharp questions. As a general rule the more testing the questions the more lively the answers. Back for his fourth series, Clive Anderson has established himself as one of the most entertaining and polished practitioners. He is witty, fluent, spontaneous and irreverent, has a good mix of guests and usually manages to spark the best out of them. Facing Anderson tonight, but well able to talk after themselves, are Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders and the Labour party's foreign affairs spokesman, Gerald Kaufman (s)
11.15 The Happening. The last in the music series presented by Jools Holland. Among those appearing tonight are Ben E. King and Will Downing (s)
12.15am Sumo: the London Bash. Highlights of the action from day three of the first Japanese wrestling tournament to be held outside Japan
12.45 One Night Stand. Comedian Bill Maher on stage at the Filmmore Theatre in San Francisco
1.10 Blenheim Adult International. A repeat of the programme shown at 4.00. Ends at 1.40

11.40 Rugby World Cup 91 **12.10-1.00** *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* **3.05** *Arnold* **Green** **8.55** *News* **9.00-10.00** *The Times of the Week* **10.00** *British Matchday Daily* **11.40** *World Cup 91* **12.30am-1.05** *News* - Good Rocker
BORDER
 As Scottish except: **1.00pm-6.30** A Country Practice **6.00-6.30** Lookaround **10.40-11.10** The Union and the League **12.05pm-1.05** In the Heat of the Night **2.05** *Arnold* **Green** **2.55** *News* **3.05** *Chemist* **4.35-5.30** *News* **5.30** *Chemist*
CENTRAL
 As Scottish except: **5.10pm-6.40** This is America, Charlie Brown **6.40-7.10** *News* **7.10-7.40** *News* **7.40-8.10** *News* **8.10-8.40** *News* **8.40-9.10** *News* **9.10-9.40** *News* **9.40-10.10** *News* **10.10-10.40** *News* **10.40-11.10** *News* **11.10-11.40** *News* **11.40-12.10** *News* **12.10-12.40** *News* **12.40-1.00** *News* **1.00-1.30** *News* **1.30-2.00** *News* **2.00-2.30** *News* **2.30-3.00** *News* **3.00-3.30** *News* **3.30-4.00** *News* **4.00-4.30** *News* **4.30-5.00** *News* **5.00-5.30** *News* **5.30-6.00** *News* **6.00-6.30** *News* **6.30-7.00** *News* **7.00-7.30** *News* **7.30-8.00** *News* **8.00-8.30** *News* **8.30-9.00** *News* **9.00-9.30** *News* **9.30-10.00** *News* **10.00-10.30** *News* **10.30-11.00** *News* **11.00-11.30** *News* **11.30-12.00** *News* **12.00-12.30** *News* **12.30-1.00** *News* **1.00-1.30** *News* **1.30-2.00** *News* **2.00-2.30** *News* **2.30-3.00** *News* **3.00-3.30** *News* **3.30-4.00** *News* 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Art market turnover slumps 70%

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE turnover of world art auctions fell by 70 per cent in the year to July 31, and the number of works sold dropped by nearly a third, according to figures compiled by the Art Sales Index database. The index, which is the first impartial analysis of the art market since the boom collapsed at the end of 1990, shows that the auction turnover fell from £2,814 million in the 1989-90 season to £844 million.

The number of works sold has gone down from 117,000 to 82,000. Sales for more than £1 million fell from 369 in 1989-90 to 73. The average price for works fell from £23,959 to £10,217.

Richard Hislop, managing editor of the index, said the results were a turning point in the history of the art market, and would probably "be used as a marker against which future auction turnover will be measured, rather than changing the base year on the retail price index".

The Art Market Index compiled its statistics from 1,800 sales held by 320 auctioneers in 24 countries. A total of 82,300 oil paintings, drawings and sculptures were monitored, 94 per cent of

which sold for under £25,000, and 86 per cent of which went for under £10,000.

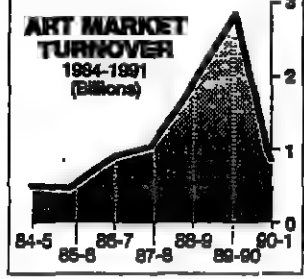
However, Mr Hislop said that the season was "not entirely without sparkle". Seventy-two artists achieved the £1 million-plus bracket for the first time, including El Greco, whose *El Expolio* fetched £1.5 million at Edmund Peet in Madrid.

The record for a British painting, £9.8 million for Constable's *The Lock* at Sotheby's last November, worked out at £3,684 per sq in. The highest price paid for a Constable in 1977 was £458 per sq in.

The average price of an Andy Warhol rose between 1971 and 1991 from £4,337 to £15,714, turnover for his works during that period having been £40 million.

Even the fortunes of the impressionists, which made the most spectacular fall, are not as bad when seen in a long-term context: the average price for all works by Cézanne, Degas, Manet, Monet and Renoir in the past 20 years have risen from £37,000 to £271,000. "A similar rosy picture can be given for almost any modern artist, especially American modern," Mr Hislop said.

The United States continued to dominate the market, as it has done since 1977, with the UK second and France third. At the peak of the boom, the US share of the world total was almost 50 per cent, at £1.33 billion. In 1990-91, however, it was down to 38.6 per cent, with the UK at 24.4 per cent.



Reaching for the throat at backstabbers' ball

Continued from page 1

There were the little compliments to previous, humbler speakers in the debate ("...and how eloquently Nick Brown from Derby described it to us"; "Maureen Hicks had her finger on the button"; "How right Barbara Ashford-Ford was!"). There were the interested enquiries about our own concerns - would we like a new county created, or an old one removed? And then the slow build-up: "We have a new approach" ... Oh, Michael, those wandering hands ... "Prime minister: when you fire the starting gun..."

There you go again, Mich

sel. "The time to start is now!" He sat down. They leapt up. In an act of collective forgiveness on almost sacrificial scale, the entire Conservative party appeared to rise and embrace him with their cheers. It was a moving moment.

All the same ... wasn't that passage - the bit about Mr Heseltine - the bit where Mr Heseltine slid his palm across his throat and shouted "Chop!" - a touch risky? Before lunch on Thursday they were cheering him as though it would never stop. Before lunch on Wednesday they had done the same, for her.

The changing face of British leadership

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Chris Pattens and Jack Cunninghams of the next century might be deploying a powerful new technology for manipulating the public image of their leaders, researchers said yesterday.

This series of prime ministerial images might be a new and even disturbing dawn, courtesy of computerised video photography and psychological research. Once the camera was said never to lie and the negatives were available to prove it.

In this new era of electronically manipulated images, able to be made and relayed round the globe in seconds, faces can echo the features of others or reflect traits perceived as intelligent or stupid, caring or strict.

"Most people never meet the prime minister: their images come from television and photographs," said Paul Wombell, curator of the Impressions Gallery, York. Theoretically, Neil Kinnock or Paddy Ashdown could, with the technology, attempt to woo wavering Conservative voters by adding to their media images traits of Winston Churchill, suggested Mr Wombell, editor of *Photovideo*, an Arts Council-sponsored study of the subject.

His views are echoed by Philip Benson, a researcher in psychology at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, who created the sequence of images with David Perrett.

"When you look at the images which are closer to the Thatcher end, where you have got, say, 25 per cent of Major in there, you are adding some of his characteristics. There is some subconscious reaction to this ... it is something we are starting to look at," said Mr Benson, adding that once programmed, the computer produced the sequence in 40 seconds.

For political leaders to exploit this technology on any large scale would require the collusion of the mass media. What worries some experts is that practices are emerging by default which undermine the once-sacred position of photography making the manipulation of images less of a professional crime. Photographers would once



Facing the future: in this sequence of prime ministers from Churchill top, and left to right, through Attlee, Churchill, Eden, Macmillan, Home, Wilson, Heath, Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher and Major, the computer demonstrates how voters might be persuaded to see just what they want to see in the politicians of the day

be dispatched to an event or a disaster leading to a multiplicity of points of view, argues Fred Ritchin, an expert in documentary making, electronic photography and a lecturer at New York University, USA.

As seen during the Gulf war, video images from a single source are increasingly being used by other television stations or "frame grabbed" and used by newspapers. Mr

Ritchin cites the case of a newspaper which, compiled from eyewitness reports, put a "photograph" of an aircraft on its front page made by a computer.

"National Geographic," in search of a vertical image, used a computer to rotate one of the pyramids of Giza behind another. The editor referred to it simply as a retroactive repositioning of the photographer a few feet to

one side," said Mr Ritchin. At the very least, Mr Wombell believes the technology might lead to political leaders on a busy schedule turning to portable computers carrying electronic identity kits to suit every occasion.

With the press of a button, preprogrammed images could be summoned up complete with dress, hair and make-up styles which the leader will copy.

Some of the styles might be soft and caring and suitable, for say a trip to a school or a health service speech, with other, harder, ones for conference rousing attacks on the opposition.

Photovideo: Photography in the Age of the Computer. Published by Rivers Oram Press. Price £11.95. P.V. video, a travelling exhibit, is at the Photographers' gallery, London, November 1.

MPs will examine Channel rail link details

Continued from page 1

handful of marginal seats in Kent and south London, and of transferring uncertainty and property blight from one part of London to another.

The London regional passenger committee, the rail watchdog, said that the de-

cision to enter London from the east had isolated Waterloo, making construction of the new £120 million Channel terminal quite pointless. Tony Hart, leader of Kent county council, said that tens of thousands of commuters in Kent, Sussex and Surrey now

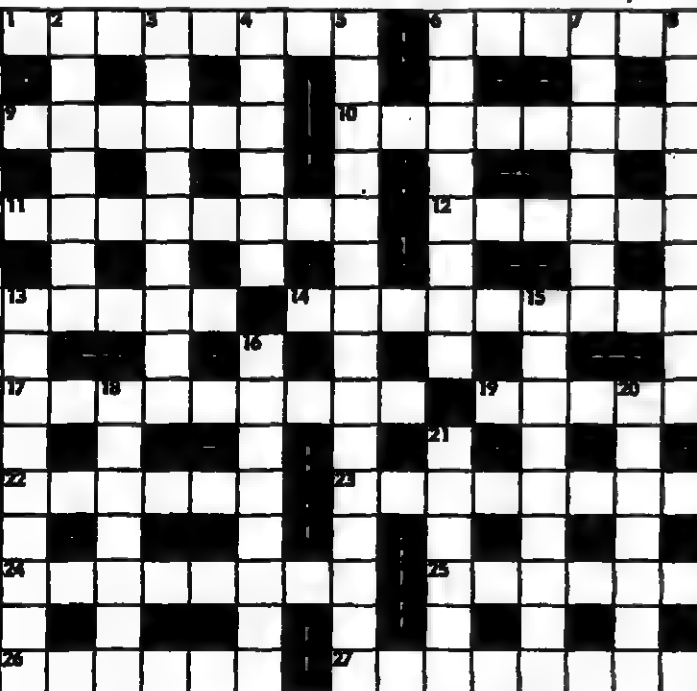
have little prospect of ever seeing an improvement in rail services into central London.

MPs and residents along the new eastern approach fear that the government's decision has simply transferred the blight and uncertainty from south to east London. The extent of the

route's environmental impact has yet to be assessed. But Rainham marshes, London's largest site of special scientific interest, could be affected by the new line. British Rail's proposal was criticised because it relied on existing lines to carry freight through

south London to yards in west London. These lines will still have to be used for freight in the early years of the new scheme, but if the eastern approach is developed, the continental freight trains will have to be routed on an up-graded north London line.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,734



- ACROSS**
- Traps not big enough for growlers? (8).
 - A little RAF fiancée wins the point (6).
 - Picture sales announced (6).
 - For Peru, dial unusual number (8).
 - Headed paper? (8).
 - Backward boy is unable to move to another area (6).
 - Secluded route via Street (5).
 - Ruined, out of work, and has suffered (9).
 - Let in rude comic during pause between acts (9).
 - However stereotyped, this is a useful quality (5).
 - Editorial chief (6).
- DOWN**
- "Charm" is a refined, old-fashioned word (8).
 - Verging on a head-on attack (8).
 - They may come home very late indeed in Hereford, say (6).
 - He believes decent finally leads to robbery (6).
 - The sort of censure that is worthless (8).
 - The art of speaking in a small chapel (7).
 - Cowardly line of people on horses? (9).
 - Cut out a bit about school (6).
 - Knock-out drops a man caught napping initially (8-7).
 - The animals to check rising grass (8).
 - Paper in the Algarve is a hotchpotch (7).
 - Share acquired for its yield, presumably (9).
 - Exceptional diamond (9).
 - It used to be very hot indeed in Georgia's cloak (3-6).
 - He gets the wind up - a mistral, perhaps (8).
 - Decry peace in our time? Quite the opposite (7).
 - One slip is bad in a short foreign letter (7).
 - Headgear often worn by Ben? (3-3).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,733

STENCH TWO FACED
AUSIER ROSTRUM
R T C R O T A O
BREAKSEVEN ACTS
O N P S P A A S
ANDROID TURN OFF
R T E O I
DIVINE RAMBLER
E T M E I S
SAND CONTINGENT
C R U S I A N G E D I L L A
P A N G L O S S D R O W S Y

By Philip Howard

NAMES

- AARON'S ROD**
a. Chief Rabbi's ceremonial sceptre
b. A shooting stick
c. A common garden plant
- KILLYARD SCHOOL**
a. Scottish writers
b. Chessboard
c. The school of hard experience
- KINGSTON LACY**
a. The single lacy hydrangea
b. Jamaican strong rum punch
c. A stately house near Wimborne
- DOROTHY PERKINS**
a. A female Bembury
b. A female rating in the US Navy
c. A rambling rose

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C London (within N & S Ceres) ... 731
M1/M25/M40/M4 ... 732
M1/M25/M40/M4 ... 733
M1/M25/M40/M4 ... 734
M1/M25/M40/M4 ... 735

National

National motorways ... 736
West Country ... 737
Wales ... 738
Midlands ... 740
East Angles ... 741
North-west England ... 742
North-east England ... 743
Scotland ... 744
Northern Ireland ... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rates) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Most parts will have a mainly dry but rather cloudy day. Although most areas will brighten up at times, it will be western Scotland that will see the best of any sunshine. North-east Scotland can also expect outbreaks of drizzle. The rain over some western areas will die out during the morning although there is still a risk of further showery outbreaks. Outlook: fairly cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

AIRPORT

MIDDAY: 11-12		Dinner: 12-13		Evening: 7-10	
to	from	to	from	to	from
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Alcatraz					

WEEKEND
MONEY
TOMORROW

PROFILE



Lord Westminster of Bowden, the chairman of GEC and a captain of British industry for 30 years, is shy, secretive and unyielding. He shuns personal publicity but gives a rare interview to Carol Leonard

CASH AND RUN

Disputed withdrawals from cash dispensers are on the increase yet banks and building societies deny firmly that "phantom" withdrawals can occur. Lindsay Cook reports

PENALTY CLAUSE

Homebuyers considering fixed-rate mortgages need to know what the penalty might be for early redemption. One couple is having to pay £4,600

Brent plan
opposed

COUNT Alexei Orlov, head of the Brent Walker small shareholders' action committee, which claims to speak for 14 per cent of the shares, is writing to all 8,000 shareholders, asking them to oppose the refinancing plan still being thrashed out by Brent's banks and bondholders.

Count Orlov has called a shareholders' meeting for tomorrow week, at which he will indicate what support he has gained from the small shareholders. He claims the terms on offer to shareholders from the banks' reconstruction offer them nothing and are equivalent to liquidation.

Unpalatable truth, page 25

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7177 (+0.0072)
German mark
2.9055 (-0.0015)
Exchange index
90.3 (+0.1)

Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share
1956.4 (-19.3)
FT-SE 100
2570.8 (-13.3)
New York Dow Jones
2943.87 (-2.45)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
Closed

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Steelco 286 1/2p (+10p)
Wellcome 719 1/2p (+15p)
Vodafone 573 1/2p (+8p)
Medeva 224p (+18p)
Macarthy 285p (+14p)
New Swift 381p (+15p)
Allied Textiles 442p (+14 1/2p)
FALLS:
Taylor Woodrow 190p (-10p)
Bank Ofg 54 1/2p (-8p)
Berkeley Group 310p (-13p)
ADT 528 1/2p (-13p)
Glynwed 231p (-11p)
Glywood 489p (-15p)
Atwoods 167 1/2p (-10p)
G Wimpey 157p (-8p)
Sulphadiaz 378 1/2p (-19p)
BOC 775p (-8p)
Unilever 581 1/2p (-11p)
BOC 581 1/2p (-21p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate: 10 1/4%
3-month interbank 10 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/8%
3-month Treasury bills 5.03-5.01%
30-year bonds 10 1/4% 10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7155
£: DM2.9069
£: Sfr2.5432
£: FF9.9105
£: Yen223.53
£: Index20.3
ECU £0.70489
£: SDR1.41884
New York: £: DM1.8540
£: Sfr2.5420
£: FF9.7635
£: Yen232.35
£: Index20.3
SDR £0.706718
£: SDR1.415649

GOLD

London fixing:
AM \$359.55 pm \$359.50
close \$359.20 \$359.70 (2209.60-210.10)
New York:
Comex \$358.45-359.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) ... \$22.20 bbl (\$22.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Hawker fights BTR bid with massive restructuring

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HAWKER Siddeley, the electrical engineering group endeavouring to escape a £1.5 billion takeover bid by the BTR conglomerate, yesterday detailed plans to sell 60 per cent of its business.

In its first defence document, Hawker said it plans to concentrate on manufacturing electric motors and batteries, and on servicing aircraft engines. Over the next four years, it aims to withdraw from electric power, railway equipment, instruments and controls, and general engineering. The businesses earmarked for disposal have annual

sales of £1.28 billion and employ 28,000 people worldwide.

Sir Peter Baxendale, Hawker's chairman, said: "We have a very clear idea of where we are heading and we need no help from BTR in getting there." He confirmed that by December, Hawker's drive for efficiency will have cost the jobs of 8,000 employees in two years.

Alan Jackson, the chief executive of BTR, said: "Hawker's management seems to have lost its nerve." He added: "The shareholders should question the timing and scale of the disposal programme."

The scale of the restructuring, which the bid has forced Hawker to

detail, is breathtaking. Sir Peter said the strategy had been approved by his board last November, but details had been kept secret to ease disposal negotiations, and to avoid unsettling customers and employees.

The disposal programme had been delayed by the recession, however, which made it harder to complete deals, and Hawker was determined to improve the performance of many of its businesses to achieve a better price for them.

By the end of 1995, however, Hawker aimed to emerge as a world player in its chosen areas. Cash released by disposals would go to build up the core businesses, employing 15,000 people, by organic development and acquisition.

Alan Watkins, Hawker's chief executive, said the group had already made four acquisitions in its new core area, totalling £160 million and had cut operating costs by £100 million. He said further measures should increase efficiency by 30 per cent and free another £200 million from work in progress and stocks.

In his message to shareholders, Sir Peter said: "BTR's bid takes no account of the value of these actions. Its timing is calculated to deprive you of the benefits of economic recovery."

Dr Watkins also attacked BTR's strategy. "The bid for Hawker Siddeley exposes BTR's pretensions to greater focus as a sham and shows BTR for what it is: a 1980s style, acquisition-led, accounting-driven conglomerate," he said.

Mr Jackson scoffed at the scale of disposals, however. "We would not envisage anything like that," he said. BTR would review the strengths and weaknesses of Hawker's diverse portfolio of businesses once it gained control.

BTR shares lost 2p to 404p, while Hawker was down 3p at 736p, 12p ahead of BTR's offer.

Drastic surgery, page 25

Lilley aims to loosen British Gas grip

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is seeking to throw the gas market wide open to competition. It wants to force British Gas to put its pipeline network into an arms-length company, surrender more of its gas supplies to competitors, and compete with rivals to supply domestic customers.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said yesterday that an office of fair trading enquiry had concluded that a monopolies reference on gas was justified, but held back from a reference to see whether British Gas would voluntarily negotiate the competition the government wants.

Yesterday, the government backed the OFT's report on developments in the gas market since 1989, when BG undertook to assist the development of competition.

Mr Lilley said he hoped BG would be prepared to discuss the issues with Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading. Mr Lilley gave warning that the government would consider legislative changes to stimulate competition in gas.

The OFT review, the conclusions of which are largely in line with the drive for greater competition urged by Ofgas, the gas regulator, which welcomed the report, found that there was, as yet, little real competition in the gas market, despite steps taken after the monopolies commission report on the industry in 1988. The OFT report said that although new suppliers had entered the gas market, they were unlikely to have more than a 4-5 per cent share of it in the next few years.

Sir Gordon will ask BG to release quickly to other gas suppliers gas for which they have already contracted, and will ask BG to revise last year's undertaking not to bid for more than 90 per cent of new gas supplies coming on to the market.

BG received the OFT report at the same time as it was published, and officials were clearly annoyed that such extensive changes and government pressure was being applied on the company with little notice. BG was not ready to make any comment last night.

Comment, page 25

Young 'tried to hide illegal aid to BAe'

By OUR CITY STAFF

LORD Young, the former trade secretary, tried to hide millions of pounds in illegal government aid to British Aerospace as part of the deal to privatise Rover, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg heard yesterday.

British Aerospace and Rover are appealing against a European Commission order to repay £44.4 million of so-called sweeteners to the British government. The court was told that during negotiations in 1988 Lord Young offered British Aerospace concessions worth £44.4 million to encourage it to pay £150 million for the car group.

The court was also told that Lord Young advised Professor Roland Smith, the former British Aerospace chairman, in writing to keep things quiet or risk alerting the European Commission.

The commission was closely involved in the terms of the takeover. It set conditions for the sale that included an instruction that the government "does not alter the proposed terms of sale as communicated to the Commission".

But Thomas Cusack, commission solicitor, told the court that three financial con-

cessions granted by the government were not covered by the agreement with Brussels. They were a £9.5 million payment to BAe covering the purchase cost of minority shares in Rover, a £1.5 million handout to Rover covering external advice costs linked to the sale, and a benefit to BAe estimated at £33.4 million resulting from the deferment of the sale price payment by 20 months from August 12, 1988.

Jeremy Lever, QC, for BAe and Rover, urged the court to annul the commission demand for repayment because the companies were innocent parties. He said BAe believed it was honouring the agreement reached between the government and the commission.

But Mr Cusack told the court BAe was "perfectly well informed" in summer 1988 about what was going on. Then he produced the letter sent by Lord Young to Professor Smith. In it, Lord Young said: "On deferment of payment of the £150 million I can offer three possibilities, in ascending order of risk that the deferment will be picked up by the European Commission. In any case they might require payment of the notional interest saved."

He suggested three dates for final payment and then went

on: "Deferment would be apparent from both government accounts and your own. In addition, in order to avoid seriously misleading Parliament when we table the revised estimate for the cash injection on the day of the statement, we cannot include the £150 million as a receipt due this year. The omission is likely to be spotted by at least some members."

The letter also referred to the £9.5 million acquisition costs and Lord Young pointed out that Peter Sutherland, the EC competition commissioner, might not necessarily "turn a blind eye" under the EC's state aid regime. "As you are well aware, the Commission has the power to seek repayment. This underlines the need to avoid unnecessarily raising the profile of the issue," he said.

Mr Lever told the court Professor Smith responded immediately to what he called Lord Young's "pick-up" letter. The next day, BAe replied "making it perfectly clear albeit in diplomatic language that that is not the basis on which to proceed".

Mr Lever said Lord Young was left in no doubt that BAe expected the matter to be dealt with in a proper manner.

The court's verdict is expected on December 4.



Written word: Lord Young, whose letter to Professor Smith was read in court

New W&M bid spurned

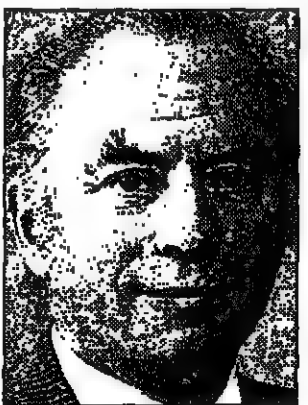
By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

WHYTE & Mackay, the drinks subsidiary of American Brands, increased its offer for the Scotch whisky group Invergordon Distillers to £350 million. The cash offer, which was immediately rejected by the Invergordon board, values the shares at 275p, 50p above the original bid.

W&M says its offer is final. There is a full loan note alternative. The bid, which is open until 1 pm on October 30, values the company at 16.5 times Invergordon's forecast 1991 earnings of at least £32 million. The shares rose 8p to 275p.

As well as increasing its bid, W&M bought 12 million Invergordon shares in the market, lifting its stake to 9.8 per cent. W&M hopes to buy around 10 per cent of Invergordon's shares in the next few days. Invergordon said its board, supported by its financial adviser, Flemings, had had no hesitation in rejecting the offer.

W&M said its new offer



Greig: critical

represented a premium of 69 per cent over the closing Invergordon share price of 163p on the day before the original offer was announced, and 8.2 times net asset value.

Michael Lunn, chairman and chief executive, said: "Our increased offer for Invergordon is final. It places a very generous valuation on Invergordon given its vulnerability on its own as a commodity business with no

major brands. Without our offer the Invergordon share price is likely to fall significantly," Chris Greig, Invergordon's managing director, described the 275p offer as typical of W&M's "dithering approach." "It takes no account of the strategic value of the company or of its performance," he said.

Dr Greig said it was possible that another bidder could emerge, but refused to comment on approaches he might have received. "Our strategy is to remain independent," he said.

Mr Lunn said that if the offer succeeded, the merged business would be based in and managed from Scotland and would be the third-largest company in the Scotch whisky industry. "The merger would create significant opportunities for the long-term development of the combined business and for its employees and would provide benefits for the Scottish economy."

Tempos, page 26

Lamont promise steadies pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH assurance from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that he would keep the pound strong within the exchange-rate mechanism steadied the currency.

Foreign exchange market fears about policy splits at the Conservative party conference appeared to have subsided after Margaret Thatcher's appearance, improving sentiment for sterling.

The pound remained at the bottom of the ERM grid, but improved 0.1 overall to 90.3 and finished a third of a pence higher at DM2.9069. At 5pm, it was half a cent higher at \$1.7155, a cent below its best.

Mr Lamont, speaking on BBC radio's Today programme, made it clear that he expected to have time to deliver a normal Budget before the next election. He said Britain had "turned the corner". All the evidence indic-

ated that it was beginning to emerge from recession.

The Chancellor renewed his conference message: "I have made it crystal clear that we will take no risks either with inflation or with the pound." He also promised to keep tight control over public spending. He had "no plans to put up VAT".

The Bundesbank left German interest rates unchanged. Helmut Schlesinger, its new president, said in an interview that the mark had to remain "strong and attractive" if the battle against deficits and inflation was to be won. The inflationary outlook was unclear.

Annual inflation in western Germany was 3.9 per cent in August. British figures today are expected to show annual inflation close to 4 per cent in September.

Gatt hopes, page 26

Panel 'ineffectual' in Guinness bid battle

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE takeover panel, one of the City's principal regulatory bodies, was an "ineffectual referee" during a bitter bid battle between Guinness and Argyl, the supermarket chain, a court heard yesterday.

Olivier Roux, former Guinness finance director, told Southwark Crown Court that when Guinness asked the panel for help in stopping its rival's "ridiculous" anti-Guinness advertising campaign, it said it could not help. Instead, the panel advised the company to take its own legal action and sue Argyl.

During cross-examination by David Hood, counsel for Lord Spens, Mr Roux said both bidders in the battle to control Distillers, the Scottish drinks group,

were "aggressive". He said: "And the panel was, I looked to me, rather an ineffectual referee."

An example had been its inability to stop Argyl's "ridiculous" advertising campaign involving "knocking copy" directed at Guinness, but the panel said it was unable to help and advised Guinness to pursue its own legal remedy.

Mr Roux said it cost Argyl shareholders "a lot of money" and did not achieve anything positive. Mr Hood: "Millions of pounds?" Mr Roux: "Yes."

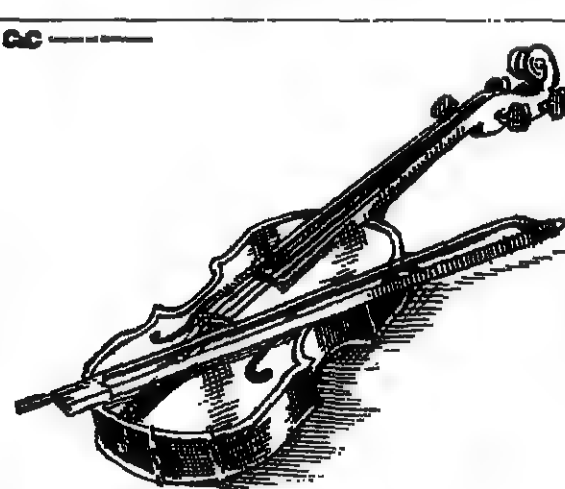
Mr Roux agreed that was an example of Guinness telling the panel there was something wrong and it replying: "Go off and take your own legal action."

Roger Seelig, aged 46, former corporate finance director at Morgan Grenfell, denies two charges of false

accounting under the 1968 Theft Act and one under the 1958 Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, alleging he fraudulently attempted to induce the disposal and acquisition of securities.

Lord Spens, aged 49, the third Baron of Blairnaguir and former managing director of Henry Ansbacher and Company, also denies a charge of false accounting. Both men have also pleaded not guilty to a joint charge alleging conspiracy to contravene the provisions of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act.

Both men are alleged to have taken part in an illegal share support operation involving undisclosed indemnities during Guinness's record £2.7 billion takeover bid for Distillers. The case continues today.



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Directors to report on Fox

By ANGELA MACKAY

INDEPENDENT directors of the London Futures and Options Exchange (Fox) will submit a report at an emergency board meeting this morning on the findings of their investigation into possible irregularities related to the exchange's failed property futures contract.

Aided by the new chief executive Phillip Thorpe, the two non-executive directors, Pat Elmer and David Hardy, will also present the report to the Securities and Investments Board.

Saxon Tate, Fox's chairman and Mark Blundell, chief executive, resigned last weekend after the discovery of possible misdemeanours. Mr Blundell has admitted initiating trades to help boost the contract. The exchange has refused to comment on allegations that it might have traded in some of its own contracts to inflate volumes or that it offered to indemnify brokers who traded in the property contract.

The decision whether to take the matter to court under the Financial Services Act will be made by the trade and industry department.

Jardine to float 33m JIB shares

By JONATHAN PRYNN

JARDINE Matheson Holdings, the Hong Kong trading group, is to float almost a third of JIB Group, its insurance broking subsidiary, in one of the largest offers for sale seen on the London stock market this year.

Details of the sell-off were unveiled in a pathfinder prospectus launched yesterday. Robert Fleming and Cazenove are acting as advisers to JIB. Jardine Matheson is making 33 million shares available for sale, representing 32.3 per cent of JIB's shares. Of these, half will be in the form of an institutional placing and half will be issued through an offer for sale to the public. The minimum application is 100 shares.

JIB, which is the world's eighth largest insurance broker, forecast pre-tax profits of at least £19.4 million for 1991, a 28 per cent increase. Earnings per share are forecast to grow by 12.5 per cent to 13.5p. The underlying rate of organic profits growth is about 13 per

cent, the company said. A proposed final dividend of 5p will make a notional 7.5p payout for the year.

Rodney Leach, the chairman, said that the flotation would allow JIB to offer its paper to vendors of medium-sized broking firms. "As long as JIB was a wholly owned subsidiary we could not offer shares, only cash," he said. The flotation would also allow JIB to grant share options to its workforce.

JIB earned 42 per cent of its profits last year from retail activities, 45 per cent from reinsurance and 10 per cent from international wholesale. The group has net cash of £30 million after a £50 million cash injection from Jardine Matheson in June.

Analysts expect the issue to be priced at between 13 and 14 times forecast earnings for 1991. That would value the shares at 175.5p to 189p and would capitalise the company at about £180 million.



JIB Group plc Share Offer



Paper exercise: Rodney Leach, chairman of JIB

Nasdaq to trade in London

By GEORGE SIVELL

AMERICA'S Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday approved a proposal by the National Association of Securities Dealers to establish a two-year pilot programme for its Nasdaq International Service trading system, which would trade during London market hours.

Nasdaq International will operate from London and will allow investors to trade larger over-the-counter stocks as well as main New York Stock Exchange companies before the start of trading in America.

The new system expands the hours of Nasdaq operations to coincide with trading on the London Stock Exchange so that trading would start at 3.30am American Eastern time, which, depending on the time of year, is either four or five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. It would end at 9am Eastern time, half an hour before the opening of normal trading in America.

The system will operate along the lines of the Nasdaq computerised system for over-the-counter stocks in America. But the disclosure requirements governing the system will vary from those in both America and Britain.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Medeva sells shares to buy US drug firm

MEDEVA, the pharmaceutical group, yesterday placed 17 million shares at 195p each to raise \$50 million of the maximum purchase price of \$77.2 million it is paying for Adams Laboratories of Fort Worth, Texas. Adams, specialising in brand-name pharmaceuticals for the treatment of respiratory complaints, reported sales of \$22.5 million in the year ended June on which pre-tax profits of \$7.3 million were made.

Adams' sales for the six months to end-December are forecast at \$16 million, on which profits of \$6 million are expected. Medeva is paying an initial \$50 million and will make deferred payments from 1993 up to a maximum of \$77.2 million in three annual tranches. Medeva's shares rose 5p to 210p.

Times, page 24

James Finlay advances

JAMES Finlay, the diversified Glasgow tea and cotton planter that also has interests in merchant banking, reports pre-tax profits of £5.14 million (£4.42 million) for the six months to end-June. Turnover was £74.2 million (£78.2 million) and the interim dividend stays at 2p a share. Figures include £1.31 million realised on the disposal of property.

Minorco on buy lookout

MINORCO, the operating and investing natural resources group that held \$1.89 billion in cash and short-term investments as at June 30, says the climate for acquisitions is "excellent". Reserves of gold in the proven and probable class at Independence Mining Company, its American gold mining company, have grown to 2.9 million oz.

Bond beer sale close

LION Nathan, the New Zealand company, is set to become the biggest brewer in Australia through an Aus\$500 million (£233 million) deal to take complete control of the former Bond Brewing empire.

Lion Nathan is to take over Australian Consolidated Investments, formerly Bell Resources. The two companies each have 50 per cent of National Brewing Holdings, which controls the former Bond assets. They have made a "merger" agreement that will give Lion Nathan full ownership of the Castlemaine XXXX, Tooheys, and Swan beer brands and a 20-year bottling franchise for Pepsi soft drinks in Australia. Lion Nathan is offering one of its ordinary shares for every 10 AustCon shares, and convertible preference shares.

Capital and Regional Transfer tops £2m

CAPITAL and Regional Properties, the USM-quoted property investment group, unveiled pre-tax profits ahead to £248,000 in the six months to June 24, up from £151,000 last time. Earnings per share rose to 1.12p (0.73p). The interim dividend is maintained at 0.3p. Martin Barber, the chairman, confident about future prospects.

TRANSFER Technology, the engineering group formerly known as Central & Sheerwood, reported £2.13 million pre-tax profits (£1.35 million) in the six months to end-June. Turnover grew 30 per cent to £29.8 million. Geoffrey Robinson, chairman, said the results were satisfactory given the economic climate. The interim dividend is 0.125p (0.1p).

BNB raises dividend

BNB Resources, the recruitment and communications group, is raising its interim dividend to 1.6p (1.5p), in spite of a decline in pre-tax profits to £1.26 million (£2.52 million) in the six months to end-June. David Norman, chairman, said the increased dividend reflected confidence on the group's longer-term prospects, although he remained cautious for the second half of 1991.

BNB received a boost from its cash reserves, which stood at £13 million at the end of June and generated net interest of £840,000 (£997,000). Earnings per share slipped to 3.9p (7.6p). Group turnover fell to £26.8 million (£35.4 million), but an increased market share helped to restrict the decline in operating income to £9.85 million (£11.9 million).

Bowater to buy paper firm

BOWATER Inc of America has agreed to acquire 80 per cent of Great Northern Paper, which employs about 2,300 from Georgia-Pacific Corporation for \$500 million in cash. The company will also have the right to acquire the remainder for \$22 million after June 30 next year.

GN's properties include pulp and paper mills in Maine with about 2.1 million acres of woodlands and substantial hydroelectric power facilities.

Payout lifted

Town Centre Securities is lifting its final dividend from 1.5p to 1.9p, making 2.8p (2.25p) for the year to end-June. Pre-tax profits advanced to £6.52 million (£5.65 million). Assets per share declined to 125.75p (143.31p).

Interim raised

Camellia is raising its interim dividend from 10p to 11p despite pre-tax profits declining to £5.22 million in the six months to end-June (£7.14 million).

Barlows' loss

Barlows fell to a pre-tax loss of £111,000 in the six months to end-June (profit of £192,000). The interim dividend is held at 0.825p.

Krupp in bid to own steel rival

By COLIN NARBROUGH

KRUPP, the steelmaker at the heart of Germany's rise as an industrial and military power, has taken a 24.9 per cent stake in its Ruhr district rival, Hoesch, and declared its intention to acquire a majority by mid-1992.

Kajo Neunkirchen, who took over as Hoesch management board chairman only 10 days ago, said he had been informed a few days ago of the Krupp move, described by the trade unions as a hostile takeover. Herr Neunkirchen succeeded Detlev Rohwedder, who was murdered by urban guerrillas last Easter.

If approved by the cartel office, the Krupp-Hoesch tie-up would be the first important merger in a long-awaited shake-out in the German steel industry. The two companies largely unsuccessfully pursued cooperation in the Seventies and Eighties.

Together the companies will create Germany's second biggest steel group, with an annual turnover of DM30 billion (£10.3 billion) and a workforce of 110,000. The metalworkers' union is seeking talks with the government of North Rhine Westphalia state to discuss the merger.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:		General:	5495.47 (+14.92)
Dow Jones:	2943.87 (-2.46)	Paris: CAC:	489.98 (-1.73)
S&P Composite:	376.71 (-0.09)	Zurich: S&A:	508.2 (-4.8)
Tokyo:		London:	
Nikkei Average:	Closed	FT-100:	1241.04 (+0.08)
Hong Kong:		FT-4 All-Share:	1381.25 (+6.63)
Hang Seng:	4056.22 (-20.16)	FT-1000:	157.1 (-0.2)
FT-SE Euro 100:	1086.32 (-2.83)	FT-10000:	96.55 (-0.05)
Amsterdam:		FT-100000:	86.58 (-0.10)
CBS Tendency:	88.2 (-0.5)	SEAD Volume:	3201
Sydney: AO:	1556.9 (-1.43)	USM (Datastream):	133.37 (+0.15)
Frankfurt: DAX:	1587.95 (+0.73)		

* Denotes midday trading price

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
October 7	October 10	January 9	January 9
Call options were taken out on 10/11/91	ASDA Group, Aviva Petroleum, Bupa Health Technology, Dale Electric, East Greenline Trust, Lap Group, LWT, Pylva, Premier Pan Telecom.		
Put & Call: Moulding.			

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Title _____

Company Name _____

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Telephone _____

Turnover: £250,000 - £500,000 ☐ £500,000 - £5,000,000 ☐ £5,000,000 + ☐

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Sid becomes a loser at Monopoly

COMMENT

The citizen envisaged in the prime minister's vaunted charter is increasingly emerging as a corporate citizen. This week, Peter Lilley's trade department has offered plans to increase competition in gas and water, to be incorporated in charter laws. In both cases, the competition envisaged is almost exclusively for the business of industrial and commercial customers. Millions of individual citizens will, however, be affected. They are the mass of the public who were solicited to buy utilities from government and whose investments the same government now seeks to damage.

They seem to have ceased to be citizens in the theoretical terms of the charter. By investing a few hundred pounds, Sid has somehow become a monopoly producer interest. This was surely not the original aim of the drive for mass share ownership. Was it not, rather, supposed to induce the citizenry to identify more closely with the welfare of the great enterprises of the land?

The proposals Mr Lilley has now accepted to curb British Gas are the most important example

yet of this changed perspective. The regulatory regime on which British Gas was privatised in 1986 was clearly lax, as *The Times* then argued. The framework for monopoly was preserved and little protection given to industrial customers.

This settlement is now attributed to the forceful powers of Sir Denis Rooke, then chairman of British Gas, a towering Victorian figure who had turned the corporation round from bureaucratic mire to robust prosperity. Yet the government had not hesitated to sell the corporation's oil interests over Sir Denis's struggling body.

The arguments for a more competitive structure were and are strong, especially for a separated transmission system to aid alternative suppliers. They were fully considered but rejected by the government, which wanted to ensure a trouble-free sale. The government was also concerned at a potential shortage

of gas and wanted to secure cheap supplies for the public.

Little has changed to alter the arguments since, least of all the government, except that money from the sale of British Gas has been safely tucked away. True, the subsequent restructuring of electricity promoted a new demand for gas, which has been supplied competitively under the 1988 monopolies commission rules. The new measures aim to ensure that some of British Gas's share of the wider industrial/commercial market is transferred to competitors. British Gas will be forced to divest important assets, in the form of gas supply contracts, to competitors. Success implies damage to British Gas.

The message from the water industry is that utilities will

continue to be under pressure so long as they deliver much real dividend growth to shareholders. The 6 per cent dividend yield on British Gas shares to some extent reflects this. The corporation must use cash flow from its main network to build low-yielding, non-regulated assets abroad.

The same cannot be said of BT, whose shares are on a comparable yield to an index-linked bond that carries none of the regulatory risk. Ordinary citizens are now being entreated to consider investing more in BT. When the time comes next month, they should remember the government's gas initiative. Industrial pressure groups are pressing for a restructuring of BT on comparable lines in 1993. Heightened regulation has a competitive momentum of its own. Changes in the regime for

one utility now tend to be foisted on all, requiring a permanent discount for political risk.

Bank audit

The Bank of England has put its weight behind accounting reform with a conviction that will have some practitioners looking at their hands in embarrassment. Pen Kent, the Bank's associate director responsible for corporate affairs, argued in a speech yesterday that "auditors have sometimes not been nearly robust enough to resist accounting practices adopted by company boards which are technically within the standards but have served to hide rather than provide information".

The complaint is diplomatically attributed to others, but the message is clear. The Bank wants to back the Financial Reporting Council's efforts to

limit the discretion of management to choose misleading accounting techniques and to ensure that the same treatments are used by similar companies, even though the board rather than auditors is responsible for creative accounts.

The auditors come in because the big accounting firms have industrial specialities and often audit accounts of several companies in the same industry. Accounting standards are being tightened, but auditors must ultimately be the channel for achieving comparability.

The auditors receive support from the Bank for their campaign to reduce expectations of the accuracy or usefulness of accounts. Accounts have to be interpreted, says Mr Kent. Even City analysts, who would appear among the more sophisticated users of accounts, have poor knowledge, fail to ask intelligent questions and have to be spoon-fed by managements.

The logic, however, points to auditors enhancing their role. Reducing expectations of users too far will ultimately lead to a dead end.

Doctor prescribes drastic surgery for Hawker's focusing problem

Ross Tieman examines the radical restyling plans intended to give Hawker Siddeley a new identity



Kill or cure: Alan Watkins plans to sell 60 per cent of Hawker's present business

HAWKER Siddeley, the engineering group under takeover threat from BTR, has embarked on one of the most radical reshaping in British corporate history.

Even the 1977 nationalisation of Hawker's aerospace and dynamics interests, accounting at the time for half of profits, pales in comparison with the plans outlined yesterday by Alan Watkins, Hawker's chief executive.

Over the next four years, if Hawker escapes takeover, Dr Watkins means to sell businesses accounting for 60 per cent of group turnover: 28,000 employees around the globe will find themselves with new bosses, very few of whom are likely to be British.

Cash from the disposals is intended to finance acquisitions which will enable the group to build up its three most successful business groups — electric motors, batteries and aero-engine maintenance — which together employ 15,000.

That, at least, is the theory. The strategy confirms the long, and widely-held view that Hawker Siddeley is an ill-focused collection of businesses long overdue for surgery, but it also opens up a debate about whether it is better to focus on businesses capable of achieving a strong position in global markets, or to rely on management skills to produce results within a broader portfolio.

Only two questions need now trouble Hawker shareholders. Who will carry through the restructuring best? And is BTR willing to pay an adequate price for the assets? For those who depend upon Hawker for their livelihoods,

the choice between Dr Watkins' global focus and the BTR approach of conglomerate management is crucial.

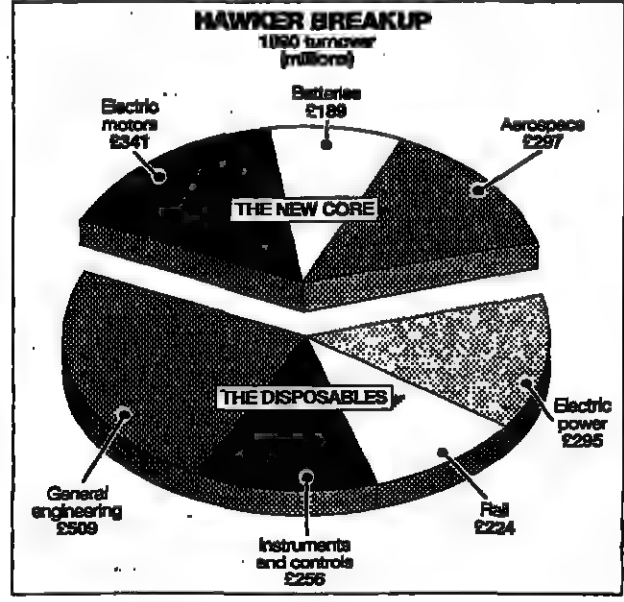
To understand the plight of Hawker, it is important to cast back to the dismemberment of the late Seventies. The government took Hawker's aerospace business, paid £107.8 million in compensation, and put it together with the British Aircraft Corporation (simultaneously nationalised from the ownership of Vickers and the General Electric Company) to form British Aerospace.

Hawker thought of handing the compensation to shareholders, but decided instead to spend it on acquisitions including diesel engines and electrical engineering. In the mid-Eighties, however, when business worldwide embarked on a process of reorganisation and concentration, and ambitious, sometimes over-ambitious managers clamoured to the top of British industry, Hawker shilly-shallied. Instead of acquiring, integrating and expanding, it merely acquired.

When, in 1989, Dr Watkins was appointed chief executive from Lucas, the company publicly acknowledged that it needed to put itself in order. Yet two years later, little change is apparent. The restructuring plan de-

tailed as part of Hawker's defence yesterday was approved by the board a year ago, but only general pointers were released, to avoid prejudicing disposal and acquisition negotiations.

A recession is a bad time to buy and sell assets. Although 20 of Hawker's 90 businesses have been sold, Dr Watkins has divided his efforts between disposal talks and trying to make what he has got run better. By the end of this year, 8,000 jobs will have been



conditioning, dish washers and other machinery.

Hawker made trading profits from electric motors last year of £36.2 million, on sales of £341 million, and claims to be the most profitable manufacturer in Europe.

In industrial batteries, Hawker claims 24 per cent of the European market and a technological lead over American rivals. Given the growing demand for protection of telecoms and computer circuits, and the long-term prospects for electric vehicles, that, too, is very attractive. Trading profits last year were £14.3 million on sales of £189 million.

Hawker's aerospace business refurbishes small aircraft engines, and is centred on Standard Aero, in Canada. Dr Watkins says Standard is now the quickest in the world at doing the work in an industry where speed is at a premium, and it is on course to cut the turnaround time from 48 days to 15 days for each engine. With sales of £297 million last year, and trading profits of £22 million, Hawker is a leading independent player in a market with good potential.

To finance expansion by organic growth and acquisition in these areas, Dr Watkins means to withdraw from other electrical engineering, railway equipment, instruments and controls and general engineering. The businesses involved have combined sales of £1.28 billion. Disposals and acquisitions would be achieved slowly so as to maximise value.

On that, Alan Jackson, BTR chief executive, agrees. Until he knows the businesses as well as Dr Watkins, he says, he cannot detail his strategy. He doubts, however, the need for such a dramatic re-shaping.

Hawker's move towards a long-term, focused approach is admirable, if overdue. But the scale and severity of its proposals must be worrying both to shareholders and employees. Dr Watkins has a brave vision. BTR has a safe pair of hands.

At the end of the day, Hawker will be transformed, whoever is in control. To withdraw from businesses on such a scale can be bold: it can be rash. And it can also be an admission of failure.

Brent Walker's investors face an unpalatable truth

ONE of the bankers leading the fight to resuscitate Brent Walker this week reportedly turned to the energetic Count Alexei Orlov, leader of an action group representing the smaller shareholders, and offered him some advice. "The unfortunate fact of life is that God is always on the side of the big guns," he said.

That is a truth that the group's battered shareholders, facing the potential loss of their investments, might as well take to heart, however cynical it sounds. As the various contenders pick over the remains of the leisure and property group, the banks, owed £1.4 billion, control the artillery and are assured of first call on the pickings.

Shareholders will this week receive a letter from Count Orlov inviting them to join him at a special meeting a week tomorrow. They can be forgiven for having lost track of the tangled story since George Walker, the founder, departed as chairman at the start of the year and as chief executive this summer.

The banks' position is clear. Brent Walker must continue to trade until market conditions improve sufficiently to allow disposals of various assets, such as the Brighton Marina, London's Trocadero shopping centre and the William Hill betting chain, at better than fire sale prices. The proposed business plan covers seven years.

Next in the pecking order are the bondholders, who put up £102 million late last year in one of those last-ditch rescues in which the group seems to specialise. Chief among them are Mr Walker, who has everything he owns tied up in the company, Michael Smur-



Walker second in line

fit, the Irish businessman, and Jefferson Smurfit Group, his packaging combine. This week, the Smurfit interests finally agreed to back the refinancing. By now, 80.6 per cent of the bondholders have agreed to support the banks, and the company is confident that enough of the rest will come around to secure the 90 per cent majority required by the banks.

Last in line are the preference and ordinary shareholders. Many will have

'Banks are assured of first call on the pickings'

written off their investments as worthless; the banks have given warning that, even if the refinancing goes through, the shares remain "extremely high risk investments".

On the sidelines is Lomro, Tiny Rowland's trading conglomerate, which has made various unsuccessful attempts to get its hands on some or all of Brent Walker, culminating

in a tentative approach last month that was rejected by the banks and the company. As owner of about 5 per cent of the bonds, Lomro's position is ambiguous, but one fact is certain: no firm offer from Lomro currently exists.

The City's takeover panel takes this view, having ruled that Brent Walker is no longer in an offer period. Count Orlov, however, continues to pin his hopes, and, as he said yesterday, his reputation, on Lomro. He is, therefore, in his letter, asking shareholders to express their opposition to the banks' refinancing, in the hope that this will tempt Lomro to make a firm move.

Count Orlov retains great respect for Lomro and Mr Rowland, whom he has described as "one of the world's greatest industrialists". Brent Walker and its banks are less complimentary; Lomro says its proposals are still on the table.

Shareholders have little real say, although theoretically, they can bring the company down by refusing to support the refinancing at the vote, in which case the banks pick up what little can be raised by the receivers. Although it is doubtful the value of Brent Walker's assets is as low as the £300 million quoted by Count Orlov yesterday, this would leave nothing for anyone else.

If they hold out for a Lomro offer, which may never emerge or may be made on less advantageous terms than have already been mooted, they run the risk of straining the banks' patience. Although all involved are busy striking negotiating attitudes, that patience must eventually run out.

MARTIN WALLER

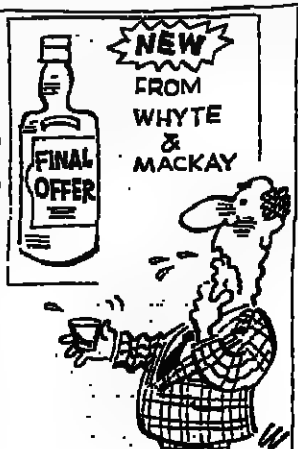
Water under the bridge

SIR Marcus Fox, the Conservative MP for Shipley, Yorkshire, may have to endure some light-hearted ribbing from colleagues at the party conference in Blackpool today over his taste in bottled mineral water. In May, he signed up as a director of Langdale Spring, a Norton, North Yorkshire, company that sells bottled water from the North York moors to health-conscious consumers. Barely five months later, however, the company has gone bust. To make matters even more embarrassing for the party, Langdale Spring, run by Tim Rison, a former film editor for Yorkshire Television, was launched with the help of John Greenwood, Conservative MP for Ryedale, who gave his blessing to the scheme. A creditors' meeting is imminent, but Revell Ward Horton of Huddersfield, the liquidator, refuses to say when. "That's your problem," snaps an unhelpful spokesman.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

National loss

FORGET any possibility of losing the Ashes to England or nearly going down at rugby to Western Samoa. A real national disaster knocked a huge dent in Aussie pride yesterday. Castlemaine XXXX, that great symbol of macho



mateyness Down Under, is no longer Australian. In one of the final death spasms of the collapsed Bond empire, control of the brand is to pass to Lion Nathan, the New Zealand brewing group, as part of a Aus\$500 million (£233 million) deal. Card-carrying Aussies say the trauma is akin to Colman's mustard falling into the hands of the French. Australians may not give a XXXX for anything else, but will the Kiwis?

Family connection

ANNE Coleman, until three years ago chief press officer at the Stock Exchange — seeing it through Big Bang, the settlement saga and Black Monday — and who recently moved from Marston Smith's Communication Group to Royle PR, has just enhanced her City connections. She returned this week from a three-week

honeymoon in the South of France with Tom Scott-Morley. Aged 34, Mr Morley, an American who once worked in the mergers and acquisitions department at Swiss Bank Corporation, is now employed by GE Capital, the project finance arm of General Electric, the American electrical giant.

Fortune hunters

FIVE months ago, a Lloyd's broker and a barrister went into partnership to sell giant garden parrots from Madagascar to the British public, as reported in the *City Diary* at the time. Now, they have gone a step further and are selling a tropical plant that lives on virtually nothing and has, they claim, taken the Continent by storm. The so-called Fortune Tree, which is supposed to bring happiness to the home,

originates from Queensland, Australia, and is being imported to Britain by the Indian Ocean Trading Company, run by James Hobbs, ex-Lloyd's, and Graeme Love, a former corporate financier with Laurence Prust. "We discovered them on a scouting trip in Germany," says Love, who adds that nearly half a million of the plants are being sold on the Continent each week.

Warring factions

WORD is spreading of a nasty brawl between two City gents in a pub in Wandsworth, south London, after one of England's World Cup rugby matches at Twickenham. One gent, said to have required hospital treatment after the incident, was an equity salesman for SG Warburg Securities. The other was a fund manager employed by Mercury Asset Management, which is owned by Warburg. "It was not an inter-group thing," says a harrassed Warburg spokesman, insisting that the pair just happened to be in the pub at the same time.

CAROL LEONARD



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STOCK MARKET

Rate fears blunt Dow advance

New York — Blue chips made mild gains in morning trading, but the advance was blocked by fears about earnings and interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.67 points to 2,950. Bonds suffered losses.

□ **Frankfurt** — Prices scrambled to end just above Wednesday's close, as bargain-hunting followed early weakness. The Dax index ended up 0.73 points at 1,567.95.

□ **Sydney** — Weaker offshore markets and European selling of local resources shares forced the market sharply lower. The all-ordinaries index closed 14.3 points lower at 1,556.9.

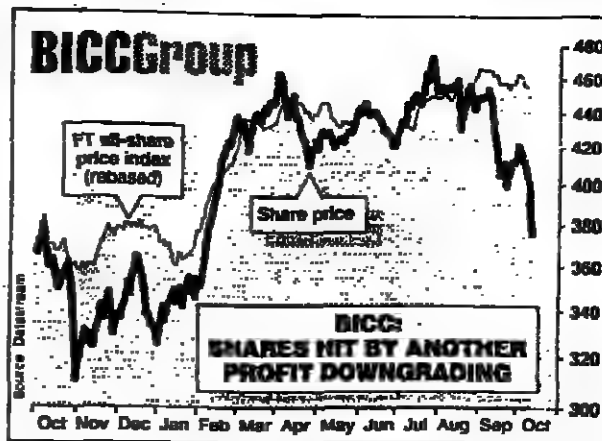
1,556.9.

□ **Hong Kong** - Shares closed lower in thin volume. The Hang Seng index, after gaining 15 points in mid-morning, dropped 20.16 points to 4,056.22 on talk that a Chinese government figure had fallen ill.

□ Singapore — Prices ended weaker but off the day's lows on late bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.01 points to 1,335.98.

(Reuter)

City baulks at rights issues



THE City's appetite for rights issues appears to be fading with investors saying that they do not intend to give cash to every company that comes along with a begging bowl, leaving a number of rights issues largely in the hands of underwriters.

British Aerospace, for instance, hardened 1p to 378p but it continues to trade at a discount to the rights issue price of 380p. Dealers claim that the newly-appointed chairman, Sir Graham Day, will have a difficult job getting fund managers to support the £432 million cash call.

Hillsdown Holdings, the food and furniture group, also slipped below its rights issue price of 210p, losing 1p to 209p.

209p, after its call for £280 million. Asda, the troubled supermarket chain, finished 2p lower at 40p, after touching 37p and coming within a whisker of its rights price of 35p. One broker commented: "There are too many companies asking for extra funds

panies asking for extra funds to reduce debt. Very few of them seem to be raising money with future investment in mind."

The equity market suffered another nervous day after a

disappointing overnight performance on Wall Street. The pound's weakness, political uncertainties, worries about the speed of the economic recovery and the absence of

Blacks Leisure, the camping and sports goods retailer, has been a firm market lately with the price unchanged at 105p yesterday. **Wise Spoke**, the broker, says that the shares are attractive and it is forecasting an increase in pre-tax profits of £800,000 to £4.3 million in the current year despite the recession.

another cut in base rates are all taking their toll on sentiment. The FT-SE 100 index finished 13.3 lower at 2,570.8 with turnover reaching 535 million shares as investors began

field, which is expected to be on stream by the end of 1993. But dealers said that the fall had been overdone.

at 379p after another downgrading. This time, County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, has cut its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year by £7 million to £125 million and by £15 million to £135 million for 1992. The reasons given include difficult conditions in the cables business and the rate at which the group capitalises interest.

Hawker Siddeley is continuing to reject the £1.5 billion bid from BTR and says that its shareholders will receive better value from the group's own restructuring programme, which is already well advanced. BTR's offer, which County would not rule out the possibility of BICC making a provision for work completed on the Channel tunnel and says that it may be forced to ask shareholders for extra cash.

vanced. Hawker's plan includes the loss of 8,000 jobs and the closure of 18 plants, which is to save £100 million. Hawker eased 3p to 736p while BTR slipped 2p to 404p.

Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals group, rose another 5p to 210p on the news that it has made another acquisition in America. Medeva is to buy Adams Laboratories, a Texasdrugs manufacturer, for \$77.2 mil.

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Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 90.3 (day's range 90.2-90.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES					DOLLAR SPOT RATES				
Unit Rates for Oct 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	Argentina dollar	1707.7-1709.4	Australia	1.5258-1.5278						
American	3.8992-3.8223	3.8992-3.8223	%-14P	%-14P	Australia dollar	2.1859-2.1820	Australia	11.256-11.28						
Brussels	56.58-55.05	56.58-55.05	8-5P	10-11P	Belgian franc	3.645-3.640	Belgium (Doll)	84.84-84.84						
Frankfurt	111.92-109.29	111.92-109.29	11-11P	11-11P	British crown	5.73-5.9538	Canada	1.1932-1.1937						
London	1.0851-1.0579	1.0851-1.0571	7-1P	%-7P	Cyprus pound <td>9.97-9.937</td> <th>Denmark<th>6.9390-6.9310</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th></th>	9.97-9.937	Denmark <th>6.9390-6.9310</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	6.9390-6.9310						
Paris	2.9282-2.9111	2.9282-2.9088	%-9P	%-9P	Finnish mark <td>7.085-7.185</td> <th>France</th> <th>1.3735-1.3735</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	7.085-7.185	France	1.3735-1.3735						
Stockholm	343.8-352.1	343.8-352.1	8-9P	142-12P	German drachm <td>322.85-324.45</td> <th>Germany</th> <th>1.8550-1.8557</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	322.85-324.45	Germany	1.8550-1.8557						
Madrid	183.21-184.21	183.20-184.21	39-38P	85-105P	Hong Kong dollar <th>15.9361-15.9316</th> <th>Hong Kong</th> <th>1.7471-1.7481</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	15.9361-15.9316	Hong Kong	1.7471-1.7481						
Norway	216.8-175.25	216.8-175.25	1-2P	1-2P	India rupee <td>25.44-25.45</td> <th>Italy</th> <th>6.895-6.8950</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	25.44-25.45	Italy	6.895-6.8950						
Oslo	222.2-222.2	222.2-222.2	0.80-0.50P	0.80-0.50P	Kuwait dirham <td>6.0525-0.0425</td> <th>Japan</th> <th>125.75-125.75</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	6.0525-0.0425	Japan	125.75-125.75						
New York	1.7150-1.7249	1.7150-1.7180	0.70-0.75P	2.00-2.04P	Malaysian ringgit <td>4.7273-4.7319</td> <th>Japan</th> <th>125.75-125.45</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	4.7273-4.7319	Japan	125.75-125.45						
Amsterdam	2.9282-2.9111	2.9282-2.9111	%-9P	%-9P	Malaysian ringgit <td>4.7273-4.7319</td> <th>Japan</th> <th>125.75-125.45</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	4.7273-4.7319	Japan	125.75-125.45						
Paris	3.9320-3.9176	3.9320-3.9176	14-14P	%-11P	New Zealand dollar <td>3.9405-3.9478</td>	3.9405-3.9478	Netherlands <th>1.8900-1.8900</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	1.8900-1.8900						
Stockholm	10.5950-10.6154	10.5950-10.5987	11-14P	%-25P	New Zealand dollar <td>3.9405-3.9478</td>	3.9405-3.9478	Netherlands	1.8900-1.8900						
Oslo	222.2-222.2	222.2-222.2	11-14P	%-25P	Portuguese escudo <td>204.48-204.48</td>	204.48-204.48	Portugal	144.70-145.50						
Norway	20.41-20.50	20.41-20.42	41-41P	41-41P	South Rand (W) <td>5.325-5.414</td>	5.325-5.414	Singapore <th>1.8900-1.8918</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	1.8900-1.8918						
London	2.9416-2.5499	2.9416-2.5494	%-11P	%-11P	Swedish krona (S) <td>4.8613-4.8593</td>	4.8613-4.8593	Sweden	14.000-14.000						
Swiss Franc			11-11P	11-11P	U A E Dirham <td>6.285-6.285</td>	6.285-6.285	Switzerland <th>6.1400-6.1400</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	6.1400-6.1400						
			11-11P	11-11P	United Arab Emirates Dirh <td>6.285-6.285</td>	6.285-6.285	Switzerland	6.1400-6.1400						

Source: Reuters. * Forward rates are for 1985. ** Discount = 0.5.

MONEY RATES (%)					LONDON FINANCIAL VOTES				
Money Rates: Cheating Banks 10%	Finance Rate 11%	Low 9%	Weak Bank 10%						
Discount Market Loans: Overnight Night 10%									
Treasury Bill (30-day): 3 month 10%	5% 10%	5% 10%	5% 10%	5% 10%					
	1 month	2 month	3 month	6 month	12 month				
Bank Money Rates (Bills):	10%-10%-10%	10%-10%-10%	10%-10%	9%-9%					
Banking Money Rates:	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%				
Overnight: open 10%, close 11%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%				
Call Authority Rates:	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%				
Banking Call:	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%				
Banking Call:	6.25-6.25	6.25-6.25	6.25-6.25	6.25-6.25	6.25-6.25				
Banking Savings CDs:	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%				
EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					FT-SE 100				
7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month					

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Power to direct trial of issue

Discriminatory definition of nationality of vessels breached obligations

Treaty

UK's unilateral re-alignment of fishing boundary zones was against the EEC Treaty

safeguard the activities of fishermen from other member states who had traditionally fished in the zones concerned, in the context of a complex balance between such activities and the exclusive rights conferred on a temporary basis upon fishermen from the coastal member state.

In that regard the new UK provisions would clearly reduce the effectiveness of Regulation No 170/83.

Second, the provisions of that regulation were also designed to

Michaelmas Bar Examination 1991

The absence of a clear specification in Regulation No 170/83 that the baselines were to be understood as being those that had existed at the time the regulation was adopted did not preclude such an interpretation. If it was the only one which made it possible to attain the objectives of the regulation in question.

It followed that there was nothing in the combined provisions of article 6 and Annex I of Regulation No 170/83 which prevented the baselines of 12-mile and 20-mile from being understood therein from being understood as referring to limits measured

BAR FINALS
BAR FINALS
BAR FINALS

Bar Examination

[illegible]

the coastal member state, to the vessels which had fished traditionally in those waters and which operated from ports in that geographical coastal area.

Article 6 of Council Regulation (GEC) No 170/83, of 21 January 1983 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources (OJ 1983, No L24, p.1) authorised member states to retain until December 31, 1983, the fishing vessels designated in article 100 of the Act of Accession and to extend, up to 12 nautical miles, the limit of six miles laid down in that article.

However, the fishing activities covered by those arrangements were subject to the detailed provisions contained in Annex I, which fixed for each member state the geographical areas within the coastal bands of other member states where those activities were pursued and also the species concerned.

As for the coastal waters of the United Kingdom were concerned, Annex I listed a series of areas lying between the six-mile and 12-mile lines in which France, Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium might exercise the right to fish for certain species.

At the time of its accession to the Communities, the United

and authorities of the other member states concerned, the Commission requested the United Kingdom not to apply the new legislation to vessels from member states fishing in areas where they were authorised to do so by Community law pending a detailed examination of the situation.

As a result of discussions between the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and the Commission, the United Kingdom announced on December 8, 1987 that it had instructed the relevant fisheries authorities to refrain from acting in any manner which might aggravate the dispute.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in article 169 of the Treaty, the Commission invited the UK to submit its observations and subsequently delivered its reasoned opinion. Since the UK stated that it could not either accept or comply with that reasoned opinion the Commission brought the present case before the court by applying the new baselines the UK had failed to fulfil its obligation under the Treaty.

In its judgment the European Court held as follows:

It was to be noted at the outset that the Commission did not suggest that the new UK pro-

islands, rocks or low-tide elevations, the existence and characteristics of tides and currents, meteorological conditions prevailing in the area, the degree of marine pollution and maritime traffic.

It followed that the objectives of Regulation No 170/83 could not be compromised if the zones in which the fishing activities defined and authorised therein were carried out were to be shifted – by as much as several miles – in the present case – and were to be included in areas in which the fishing grounds, natural conditions and density of maritime traffic were to prove very different.

Under the scope of Annex I to Regulation No 170/83 should not therefore be altered by the unilateral action of a member state.

Consequences of UK measures

That the combined provisions of article 6 and Annex I of Regulation No 170/83 should be interpreted as referring to ocean baselines as they existed on January 25, 1983 was confirmed by a consideration of the potential consequences of the measures adopted by the UK authorities which would be at variance with the objectives of the regulation.

In the first place, that regulation was designed specifically to

The Court also rejected arguments of the United Kingdom based upon the relationship between those provisions, the Act of Accession and pre-existing international conventions, the practice followed in the case of adjustments made to the baselines, or the law of the Court dealing with the consequences ensuing from the extension of national fishing grounds and on the practical difficulties which would arise under the interpretation advocated by the Commission.

On those grounds, the European Court:

1 Declared that, by applying in certain areas, for the purposes of fisheries arrangements laid down for the waters off the United Kingdom in Annex I, read together with article 6(2), of Council Regulation (EEC) No 170/73 of January 25, 1983 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources, new baselines which were shifted further out to sea than those in force on January 25, 1983, the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty.

2 Ordered each of the parties, including the intervenor, to bear its own costs.

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18-20 OCTOBER, NEC, BIRMINGHAM

T11

Matchmakers glad of help in smoothing the investment path

By DEREK HARRIS

ENCOURAGEMENT for bringing together investors and small businesses in need of modest amounts of equity capital, announced this week by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, has been welcomed by those already in the field as a potentially fruitful initiative.

Among them is LINC, the local investment networking company, which has under its wing a dozen local enterprise agencies operating financial "marriage bureaux" aimed at small business.

LINC has for some years been encouraging the emergence of "business angels". Typically, these are already successful entrepreneurs keen to invest both cash and personal effort in encouraging a newcomer.

This year, the network has seen the placing of £310,000 in seven investments around the country, a third up on last year.

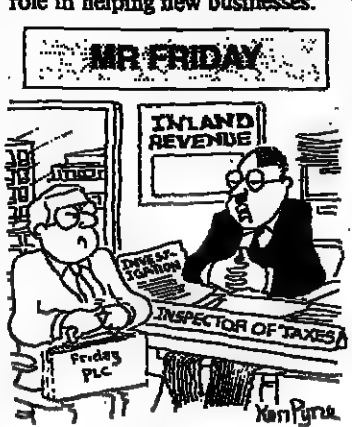
However, LINC has been weak in some areas, particularly rural ones. The Howard plan will go further by bringing marriage brokers on to a regional basis, initially in five areas.

These will be in Bedfordshire, Calderdale and Kirkcaldy, Devon and Cornwall, east Lancashire and south and east Cheshire.

Fiona Conoley, LINC's general

manager, suggests a further improvement could be to change business expansion scheme rules so that its tax breaks could apply to the typical angel who wants to work in the business as well as invest.

At 31, Britain's biggest venture capital provider, Marc Gillespie, a director covering the South of England, applauds business angels because their expertise lessens risks in a young business. It is keen to strengthen its traditional role in helping new businesses.



"Be ever mindful
— you're guilty..."

Broomford backs a winner

By VERONICA HEATH

THE recession in the racing and bloodstock industry has brought clients knocking on the stable door at Broomford farm, near Chatham in Northumberland. Anna Baker Cresswell runs a budget-priced thoroughbred training yard there with her partner, Colin Hall.

They joined forces a year ago to combine Anna's business talents and four years' experience working with racehorses in Australia with Colin's expertise handling young stock and preparing horses for the point-to-point circuit. He has an impressive record of 76 per cent of his runners placed in point-to-points over five years.

The training yard's forte is point-to-point racing, but it also targets the Foxhunter Chases at National Hunt meetings. To keep a racehorse in a training establishment to race under rules can cost £200 or more a week, often with vet and farrier bills, travelling costs and jockey fees extra.

Anna said: "We have had owners coming to us this year who just cannot afford to spend that kind of money on their hobby any longer. We offer a cheaper alternative and are particularly keen on stabling point-to-point horses owned by syndicates."

Anna pioneered this latter scheme herself; there are already two horses in the yard owned by business syndicates. A new venture this winter has businesses being invited to have their horse

jump for charity in a chosen race with fences being sponsored and proceeds going to charity funds. The yard has been converted from a redundant dairy farm on Anna's father's estate and she obtained a 25 per cent building alterations grant from the Rural Development Commission. She admits that having a father in the legal profession was a help. She had a year on the enterprise allowance scheme.

The agriculture ministry is giving a grant towards the costs of promoting the business and the full-colour brochure she has had produced. She has spent more than £20,000 setting the yard up and now employs two people full-time and two part-time grooms. Initially catering for six to eight horses, Broomford has had to expand to stable 14. There is scope for further development.

Anna said: "I'm not claiming that we can train an equine to win races better than they do at Newmarket. Owners who opt for pre-training at Broomford are an early work programme are, nevertheless, going to save themselves money."

One of the problems of a rural business is letting people know you exist. Anna consequently spends a large part of her time promoting Broomford while she also does all the books. This allows Colin to spend most of his time in the saddle.



Racing ahead: Anna Baker Cresswell, with one of her charges

BRIEFINGS

THE English Tourist Board has produced a guide setting out the rules on when bed and breakfast establishments need to pay business rates. The recent six-guest rule, which can free an establishment of business rates, is reviewed. Rights of appeal against rating decisions and the appeals procedure are explained. The guide, *Bed & Breakfast and the New Business Rates*, is available free from regional tourist boards in England or the ETB (Department D), 24 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0ET.

Thirty new franchise offerings will feature at the autumn National Franchise Exhibition, which opens for three days next Friday at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. A total of 125 franchisors will be there and 12,000 visitors are expected, the same as last year. The British Franchise Association, which sponsors the exhibition, is running free seminars during the event offering advice that should be especially helpful to those fresh to the field. Subjects include choosing and financing a franchise and legal points to watch.

Seminars to help small businesses prepare for economic upturn start next Wednesday at Greater London Enterprise's training centre at Newington Causeway, SE1. A seminar about company cars costs £70, others £47 each. Details: phone 071 403 0300.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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Fletcher a quiet achiever who delivers the bounty

Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, on a man whose unheralded work for his county calls out for further recognition

If the 1991 cricket season is destined to be forever coupled with the name of Graham Gooch, there is another Essex man whose influence upon it has been substantial, if deliberately inconspicuous.

Both with the county he has served for 30 years, and for the country he has hitherto been asked to serve outrageously little, Keith Fletcher's role has been that of the anonymous benefactor, dispensing his gifts without fuss or recognition.

It has always been this way with Fletcher, whose familiar stooping shuffle is now complemented by greying hair so that he resembles ever more the mild pipe-and-slippers type without thrust or ambition. It is an image with which he is happy but it is misleading now as it was when, in 13 seasons as Essex captain, he outwitted all comers with the incisive cricket brain which lurks beneath the inoffensive front.

His confinement to one winter tour as England captain will always indict the selectors of the day with negligence. But, shrewd and respected leader that he was, Fletcher is unsure that he wants another shot at the high-profile existence demanded by the top jobs.

Now, it is not the captaincy but the England team

manager's job which is at issue. Fletcher, who this winter will undertake his third tour as manager of the England A team, is the natural successor to Mickie Stewart if, on reaching his sixtieth birthday and the end of his contract this time next year, Stewart's six years in charge come to an end. Fletcher, however, is not yet a declared runner.

"They have to offer it to me first," he says, with caution born of bitter disappointments. "If they do, it is something I would have to think about very seriously. Mickie has given the job total commitment and anyone taking over would be expected to do the same."

There would be less of the fishing and shooting he has always enjoyed, and the skiing which is a recent addition to the winter diary, but the most obvious casualty, and the decision which would cause Fletcher most agonising, is to discard his coaching job at Essex.

To the outsider, the Fletcher factor may seem more tenuous since the second coming of Gooch. In

fact, it is as strong as ever and, whereas Stewart had few qualms leaving a job at Surrey which he may have felt he had outgrown, Fletcher is passionate about his background role with the most successful county side of the past decade.

The passion comes, as much as anything, from the memory of how it used to be. Looking out over the compact and pristine stands of Chelmsford, he smiled and recalled: "When I first played here there was nothing except two wooden huts to change in. They were pretty moderate huts, too, very run-down."

"It took us a long time to win anything and it goes without saying that things were different then. We had a lot of fun and, under 'Tonker' Taylor, there was certainly a sergeant-major sort of discipline. But we didn't work on cricket nearly as much as our team does now."

"The biggest difference is that we have some better players nowadays, and that the will to win is very much

greater. This side is more ambitious than those of the Sixties and Seventies but I don't accept the theory that this has taken the characters from the dressing-room. We may not have the funny men we once did but all these blokes are characters in their own way."

"My main role here is to produce young players good enough to come into the first team, which means spending a lot of time with the second XI. But my other job is to make sure the first team keeps playing as they should, and I am with them at least two days a week."

The success of the job reflects in the smooth introduction, this season, of Nick Knight and Jonathan Lewis, young batsmen so promising that Fletcher agreed to the release of a third, Adam Seymour. Bowlers, Fletcher concedes, are in much shorter supply than the batsmen. From back trouble of Mark Flitt will, he says, immeasurably strengthen the side next year. "If he had been playing this season we would have won the championship a good bit earlier," he says feelingly.

At 47 years, Fletcher still has a great deal to offer the game. If England want him in their corner as from next year, however, they first have to prize him away from a local love affair.



Changing face of the game: Fletcher surveys Chelmsford and recalls just how much progress has been made

HOCKEY

Olympic goal in sight

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE British women's team opens its Olympic qualifying bid in Auckland tomorrow with confidence, despite a scoring famine that has not produced a goal in the past four matches.

Yesterday, in a practice match of three sessions against Germany, Britain again had the edge but lost out to a strike from a late penalty corner.

"It is not for a lack of shots on goal," Dennis Hay, the coach, said. "We still have top gear and overdrive to come and we are saving that for the tournament matches."

Britain should have little difficulty in becoming one of the five qualifying teams to join Australia, the Olympic champions, Spain, the host country, and The Netherlands, the world champions, in Barcelona.

Britain have the easier of the two sections, and have yet to concede a goal against their first three opponents. They play Italy tomorrow, Argentina on Sunday and Ireland on Tuesday.

The final two sections matches, against Canada and China, will offer a sterner test. Olympic places automatically go to the top two finishers in each section.

Britain team earns invite

THE Netherlands, Spain and Great Britain have accepted invitations to play in a four-nation tournament, which is being organised by the Hockey Association (HA), next June (Sydney Friday).

"I expect it will be about two weeks after the BMW Trophy in Amsterdam," Phil Appleby, the HA president, said. Great Britain's men's and women's teams will take part in the BMW event from June 3 to 8.

MOTOR SPORT

Balestre finally loses a fight after 13 years

Paris — Max Mosley, of Britain, is preparing to put his mark on Fisa, the governing body of motor sport.

"There is a great deal to do," said Mosley, aged 51, who replaced Jean-Marie Balestre as Fisa president by 43 votes to 29 on Wednesday. "Balestre has done much in his own style and now it is up to me to get to work and do it my way."

In electing Mosley, aged 51, the delegates at Fisa's plenary conference had signalled the need for a change. For many, it was difficult to believe that the battle-hardened Balestre, aged 71, had finally been deposed. The Frenchman had been a driving force in motor sport for more than 20 years, guiding France through serious problems.

In October 1978, when he was elected as the founding presi-

dent of Fisa, Balestre anticipated the political difficulties which lay ahead when he said he had been handed a "poisoned chalice". He warned that motor sport was "heading for ruin through the fault of totally incompetent people and the clash of geographical and business interests".

Within months he was embroiled in a struggle with the Formula One Constructors' Association (Foca) for control of the sport. By the end of 1980, there were threats of a break-away championship by the largely British Foca teams, but this was avoided when Balestre and Foca, led by Bernie Ecclestone, then boss of

Brabham, resolved their differences with the 1981 Concordat Agreement. It was Mosley, as legal adviser to Ecclestone and a prominent Foca member through his March team, who played a leading role in the formation of the agreement.

By the late 1980s, with the help of Ecclestone, who became a vice-president of Fisa, Balestre, who is still president of FIA, the international motoring federation, began to turn his attention to safety, particularly in Formula One. Turbo engines were banned from 1989, and much tougher "crash tests" and other technical criteria were introduced for cars.

In 1989 Balestre was accused of manipulating the world drivers' title when Ayrton Senna was disqualified after "winning" the Japanese grand prix. The title went to Alain Prost, of France, with whom Senna had collided at the chicane on the closing laps. It was this controversy which resolved Mosley to stand against Balestre. (Reader)

through his March team, who played a leading role in the formation of the agreement.

The reformed Wales squad to play Papua New Guinea at the Vetch Field, Swansea, on October 27 will spend four days at a hotel in the city preparing for the game. Jim Mills, the Wales chairman, is manager of the side and Jonathan Davies the captain. PNG face the Great Britain under-21s at Headingley, on October 30, and the senior side in a World Cup-qualified match at Central Park, Wigan, on November 9.

Halifax are poised to sign the former Great Britain prop, John Fieldhouse, from Oldham. He is valued at £50,000.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Official curb on intruders

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE increasing irritation for referees caused by pitch intruders carrying water bottles and messages for players is to be banned by the Rugby Football League (RFL) from next month.

A fourth official will be based on the touchline to back up the referee and two touch judges.

His function will be to supervise all comings and goings on the pitch involving injuries, substitutions, sin-binning and the removal of players to receive attention in the blood-bus.

David Howes, the RFL public affairs executive, said: "This will enable the referee to get on with the job of running the game and applying the laws without being disturbed by a whole army of non-playing personnel whose primary function often seems to

be to convey water bottles and messages." The fourth official will also be a deputy in the event of illness or injury striking one of the three officials during a match. This has been the practice at all big games, now it will be introduced at all first-team and Alliance games.

The increasing incidence of "water-carrying" has become a source of annoyance in rugby league and in football, and while rugby league is putting its house in order it may well be seen to be offering a lead to football's governing bodies, who are also becoming aware of the growing practice.

The blood-bus time will be extended from ten minutes to 15 minutes to allow more time for treatment, because experience

has proved that ten minutes is too short a time for medical personnel when faced with the problem of staunching severe cuts.

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Cooke calls on his England players to raise their game as the World Cup starts the last phase of pool matches

Americans seeking to bow out in style

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE involvement of the United States in the World Cup will end after this afternoon's match against England at Twickenham, but in one respect they will have done better than New Zealand, the holders of the Webb Ellis Cup: they will have filled Twickenham, which the All Blacks were unable to do — if only by a couple of hundred — when they opened the tournament against England last week.

The Rugby Football Union expects a sell-out crowd of 57,500 (a figure which does not include the hospitality boxes) for the penultimate Pool 1 match, which England must win for their own self-esteem, not to mention their place in the quarter-finals next weekend. That will be a record for a game against a non-International Board country, and a far cry from 1977, when



a few thousand turned out to see the only previous appearance at Twickenham by a fully representative American XV. Ominously, Geoff Cooke emphasised yesterday that England have yet to reach the quality of performance to which they aspire. On top of that, several of today's team are aware that this may be their only appearance in the World Cup and will wish to make the most of it; a smaller number — three at the most — may see a place in the quarter-final XV as within their grasp.

Not that the Eagles, whose team list became somewhat confused on Wednesday night and suggested, among other things, that Brian Vizard's elbow injury had improved sufficiently for him to lead the team at Twickenham (it has not), are turning up to act as cannon fodder. The six Englishmen who played in the 34-6 victory in Sydney in the 1987 World Cup will remember them as being big, hard-tackling opponents.

"We don't like being caught up in close, tight situations, like a boxer in a clinch," Jim Perkins, the Eagles coach, said. "We want to get away from the scrummaging, we like to play the ball wide. But we do spend a lot of time working on our defence because we know we will get little ball from the top countries."

"Americans are superb tacklers when they are in the right frame of mind, and we try to create things from that defence. But overall I have 26 guys who are delighted to be in the World Cup, and delighted to be going up against two of the world's best."

The first of those, New Zealand, were clearly disconcerted by the enthusiasm of the American approach at Gloucester on Tuesday, before stretching away to their 46-6 win. England can expect more of the same but Cooke, the team manager, wants the discipline and cohesion which ensured that Tuesday's match with Italy was won within the first quarter.

Simon Hodgkinson will enjoy a return to the arena where, seven months ago, he was a grand-slam hero, and Simon Halliday a return to international rugby after spending much of 1990 uncertain whether a chronic ankle condition would even allow him to play again. John Oliver, the Northampton hooker, plays only his second international, his first was against Argentina last year.

After today, England take stock: the squad, and their families, will spend the weekend in St Brade in Jersey, a recreational period before flying on Monday to Paris, the assumption being that the final round will see New Zealand finish as Pool 1 winners and England runners-up.

Meanwhile, Jason Hewett, a student in Auckland, will win



Front-row features: Oliver, the England hooker, in delightful form with the ball in hand at training yesterday

Coverage by ITV proves anything but all Greek

By DAVID HANDS

THE Greeks, they say, have a word for it, although I am none too sure what their word is for a town in the Midlands which gave its name to a sport. At all events, Greece is among the countries which have shown an interest in the televising of the Rugby World Cup, which, on Wednesday evening, reached the halfway mark of 16 matches.

Rugby union is not a game immediately associated with Greece, no more is Austria known as a hotbed of the sport, yet Austrian television is negotiating for a programme of highlights from the final on November 2 — so long as an introductory programme can be provided which will tell the viewers what the game is all about.

More than 60 countries are taking television signals from the tournament. On Wednesday, the busiest day with five matches being played, ITV received three calls from the United States asking for further coverage. Yet all the while ITV Sport is on trial because for the first time it is showing a game which has always been associated with the BBC and which has never attracted an audience of more than six million.

The viewing figures for the opening game of the tournament, England v New Zealand, are likely to be available early next week. Not that cold statistics are the only measure of success which Bob Burrows, the head of ITV Sport, is prepared to recognise: "The

marvellous thing for me is how the broadcast team has come together from a standing start. My view is that we will have a good World Cup if we show we can cover the game with authority, with style and with quality. It is particularly important for us to demonstrate that, after the loss of the domestic contract, when the judgement of the home unions was that the BBC was the only one which could show rugby."

So far, it has been a good World Cup for the ITV team. The operation, costing £7 million, involves the laying of 4,500 miles of cable, the use of 12 satellites to beam pictures round the world, 20 outside broadcast units and nearly 1,000 people throughout the network of whom 300 are at Twickenham, the heartbeat of the whole operation.

But bare logistics do nothing to indicate the ordered frenzy which exists beside the Thames on such a day as Wednesday, when the first of five matches began at 1pm in Portmarnock, the last at 8pm in Cardiff, with visits in between to Edinburgh, Dublin and Toulouse.

In one sense, it was a straightforward day since live action occupied so much of the air time. In another, it was a frenetic operation to pare down four matches into a package of scoring highlights to follow the last game of the day, Wales v Argentina. Constant readjustments

must be made when a match goes into injury time. "You have one minute 36 seconds for that if you don't overrun your one minute 45 seconds now," a studio assistant, stopwatch in hand, informs Frank Bough — the eye of the storm, you might say. She is only one of several voices that Bough hears as he prepares for his next link in the studio presentation.

Adaptation for Bough's professionalism is hugely enhanced by a visit to ITV headquarters. The ease with which he sustains the flow of information, of comment while responding to a non-stop barrage of instructions in his earpiece is ample justification for ITV's revival of the role which he occupied for so many years with BBC's *Grandstand*.

Burrows admits his team is learning all the time. The tendency to re-run action when the game is proceeding has been noted and cured. The use of so many cameras (14 for some games) is an art form but he is immensely pleased to have launched what he believes is a new generation of commentators and to have gained credibility for a sport which many in Britain thought ITV might treat frivolously.

Any organisation whose head of site operations is named Steve McDowell — same spelling, even, as the All Blacks prop — must have something going for it when it comes to rugby union.

Scotland stay the same for decider

By ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND have selected the side that defeated Japan 47-9 for the deciding match in Pool 2 against Ireland at Murrayfield tomorrow but have made two changes in the replacements.

Before the game with Zimbabwe on Wednesday, which was won 51-12, Duncan Paterson, the Scotland manager, indicated there were still certain positions open to competition for the Ireland match. In reality, the only debatable position was at lock, where the choice rested between Daddie Weir and Damian Cronin.

In the event, Cronin did nothing exceptional against Zimbabwe to convince the selectors that he would add to Scotland's lineup performance. Weir, a mobile forward and genuine jumper, has been retained to partner Chris Gray.

The only real worry for the Scotland management has been the fitness of Tony Stanger, who limped off the field on Wednesday after sustaining a knee injury. He has been examined by an orthopaedic surgeon and passed fit.

The two changes in the Scotland replacements are Graham Shiell for Douglas Whyte and Alan Watt for David Milne. Shiell provides more adequate cover at stand-off and, as an inside centre, has the advantage of playing alongside Craig Chalmers in club rugby. Watt's promotion is thoroughly deserved and, according to Paterson, was "on merit".

SCOTLAND: A G Hastings (Worcester), A G Stanger (Hawick), S Hastings (Worcester), S R P Lagan (Boroughmuir), I Tulloh (Glasgow), M C Smith (Glasgow), G Armstrong (Leeds), D M B Sule (Edinburgh Academical), J Allan (Edinburgh Academical), A P Sarnell (London Scottish), J Jeffrey (Kelso), C A Gray (Northampton), G W Weir (Glasgow), C Calder (Glasgow), D B Wilson (London Scottish), R Macdonald (Glasgow), P W Dods (Glasgow), A G Shiell (Glasgow), G H Oliver (Hawick), J Marshall (Glasgow), K S Milne (Hawick) (17).

Irish keep faith in Mullin

By BRYAN STILES

IRELAND kept faith with Brendan Mullin, the record try-scorer, when making seven changes for the match against Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow. The game will decide who occupies the all-important first place in Pool 2.

Mullin, omitted from the opening game against Zimbabwe, showed with one electrifying try-carrying burst against Japan that he has a talent that cannot be ignored. He will have Simon Geoghegan as his right-wing partner with Keith Crossan on the other wing, cleared after having an ankle x-rayed.

All six forwards rested for the game against Japan return. Neil Francis, in whom much of Ireland's lineout ambitions are invested, has a bruised thigh but was given the go-ahead to play, although neither he nor Crossan trained yesterday.

IRELAND: J Sheehan, S Geoghegan, B Mullin, D Crossan, K Crossan, P Saurdson, N Poppell, S Smith, D Fitzgerald, P McKeown, D Lavin, N Francis, J Heenan, S Robinson, P Macdonald, K Murphy, V Cunningham, P Ahern, T Kingston, G Hoggan, N Morrison.

France stay with the same team

Agnes — France yesterday announced an unchanged side for their game against Canada on Sunday (Chris Thau writes).

Daniel Dubroca, the France coach, said that the game against the Canadians should serve France well as a rehearsal for their projected quarter-final match against England in Paris. "Canada is a little England. They play a similar type of rugby," he said.

"We did make progress, and this is reflected in the consistency of our selection, but there is still a lot to be done and that's why we kept the side together."

The decision to maintain an unchanged side is risky if a player injured late in the competition, but Dubroca seemed confident that the 16 used so far could carry on. "I haven't seen yet a player exhausted after a game. They are incredibly fit."

FRANCE: S Bessis, J-L Lafont, P Sade, P Merlet, P Sallier, D Camberlain, F Galmic, G Lussat, P Marocco, P Ondrieux, Champ, J-M Cadeau, O Roumet, L Casterne, A Sarrat.

Farr-Jones winning battle

By PETER BILLS

THE Australia captain, Nick Farr-Jones, could be fit for his quarter-final on October 20, most probably against Ireland or Scotland in Dublin.



Farr-Jones limped into breakfast at the team's Cardiff hotel yesterday after spending the night with ice-packs on the injured medial ligament in his right knee. But the coach, Bob Dwyer, was optimistic about Farr-Jones's chance of recovery. "Nick has shown he is a fast healer and I would back him to prove it again this time," Dwyer said. "He is saying he will be all right for the quarter-final and I know him well enough not to disagree. It's not as serious as we

first feared and Nick has demonstrated in the past he can beat the odds with this type of injury."

Dwyer was pleased at the manner in which the vice-captain, Michael Lynagh, took control once Farr-Jones had gone off against Western Samoa on Wednesday. He conceded the 13-6 defeat they suffered in Brisbane, will not be a problem, according to the Wales coach, Alan Davies. "The hardest thing will be coming them down to control the motivation they have," he said. "They feel they have a point to prove against Australia and are desperate to get started."

people, so Michael will be the overall controller. He is in the ideal position to do that job."

Wales, who play Australia at Cardiff tomorrow, retreated to their rehabilitation centre at Brecon yesterday after their victory over Argentina. Motivating his team for the match, less than three months after the 13-6 defeat they suffered in Brisbane, will not be a problem, according to the Wales coach, Alan Davies. "The hardest thing will be coming them down to control the motivation they have," he said. "They feel they have a point to prove against Australia and are desperate to get started."

WORLD CUP POOL MATCHES															
Pool 1								Pool 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	2	2	0	0	64	18	6	Scotland	2	2	0	0	98	21	6
England	2	1	0	1	48	24	4	Ireland	2	2	0	0	67	27	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	36	45	4	Zimbabwe	2	0	2	1	25	79	2
United States	2	0	2	0	15	78	2	Japan	2	0	2	1	23	106	2
RESULTS: England 12, New Zealand 18; Italy 30, United States 6; England 36, Italy 6								RESULTS: France 30, Romania 3; Fiji 3, Canada 13; France 33, Fiji 9; Canada 18, Romania 11							
FIXTURES: Today: England v United States (Twickenham, 3pm), Oct 13; New Zealand v Italy (Leicester, 3pm)								FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Fiji v Romania (Brisbane, 7pm), Oct 13; France v Canada (Aper, 4pm)							
Pool 3								Pool 4							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	41	22	6	France	2	2	0	0	63	12	6
Wales	2	1	0	1	23	23	4	Fiji	2	0	2	0	12	46	2
Samoa	2	1	0	1	19	22	4	Romania	2	0	2	0	14	48	2
Argentina	2	0	2	0	23	48	2	RESULTS: France 30, Romania 3; Fiji 3, Canada 13; France 33, Fiji 9; Canada 18, Romania 11							
FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Scotland v Ireland (Murrayfield, 1.30pm), Oct 14; Zimbabwe v Japan (Belfast, 3pm)								FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Fiji v Romania (Brisbane, 7pm), Oct 13; France v Canada (Aper, 4pm)							
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: Oct 3; Cardiff, 2.30pm.															
SEMI-FINALS: Oct 26; Murrayfield winners v Paris (Murrayfield, 2.30pm), Oct 27; Dublin winners. Lille winners (Dublin, 2.30pm).															
FINAL: Nov 2; Twickenham, 2.30pm.															
<p>  After the first two rounds of play, Scotland's pool matches will lead the table for the Heineken play-off series. They have followed by Canada 18, Argentina, Australia and Zimbabwe 17 each, Ireland 16, Japan 16, England 23, United States 21, New Zealand 18, Romania 11, Wales 20, France and Romania 25 each, Wales 30, and Italy 47. </p> <p>  Teams in pool matches are awarded three points for a victory, two for a draw and, if defeated, one for losing the fixture. </p> <p> QUARTER-FINALS: Oct 18: Pool 2 winners v Pool 3 runners-up (Murrayfield, 1pm); Pool 4 winners v Pool 1 runners-up (Paris, 3pm). Oct 22: Pool 3 winners v Pool 2 runners-up (Dublin, 1pm); Pool 1 winners v Pool 4 runners-up (Lille, 4pm). </p>															

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Preparing to board the plane for Paris



Andrew, quietly optimistic of further progress in cup

THE first week of the 1991 World Cup is over and the England camp is in quiet, if optimistic, mood. We are going along quite well in what we seek to do and the first stage will be completed with the match against the United States today, our last pool game. Assuming things go as predicted, both for ourselves and France this weekend, then we board the plane for Paris on Monday afternoon to prepare for the quarter-final.

We will go into that match having learned at least one valuable lesson from the All Blacks, who defeated us in the first game of the tournament; namely, how to kill off a game once you get ahead. We just couldn't get back into that match because they played a very disciplined, very effective and clever All Black type of game.

Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, reflects on the first week of the Rugby World Cup as the team plans for its final pool match against the United States today

Quite honestly, we were disappointed with the way we played. The occasion got to us. The game itself didn't live up to the occasion, which is often the case when a match is built up so much.

As for the *haka*, we couldn't hear the All Blacks performing it because of the noise the crowd made. We had deliberately tried to ignore the *haka*; we were more interested in trying to concentrate on our own game. We didn't see why we should let it dominate our thoughts.

We didn't want to do what Ireland did and make a big scene

about it. I believe we got it about right by ignoring the whole thing. It was a pity we couldn't get our game right on the day.

We had not played the All Blacks for so long and we did not really know what to expect. It is okay watching videos but you need to play against people face-to-face. We got very tense beforehand, during the long build-up, and, frankly, we were pleased to get that match out of the way. It would have been a great lift to us had we won but defeat did not mean we could not reach the final.

Once the other matches started

to get going, and people focused their attention elsewhere, we found the tension disappeared a bit. We had some freedom to concentrate on Italy and I thought we played quite well.

In glimpses, Italy showed what a good side they can be and they scored a superb try. The trouble was that we had the match won just after half-time, at 30-0, and they clearly decided to try to kill the game and stop us scoring many more points. It resulted in a flood of penalties as they infringed at every breakdown. We could not achieve any continuity.

The stream of penalties raised the debate over the strict interpretation by officials of players staying on their feet. My view is that sometimes it is very difficult, for forwards particularly, to stay

on their feet. I can see why the officials want to stop all the bodies on the floor but I think there should be some leeway to allow people to go on to the floor if they are trying to secure a free ball.

The problem is this. At the moment, those in charge are trying to say no one else apart from the two players involved in the tackle can go on to the ground. Some players do not know what to do. They are being told they must stand around and try to pick up the ball but, if you do that, you get flattened by an opponent charging into the scene of the breakdown.

Do you stand over it, try to pick it up and get hit by the opposition, or stand back and let them get it? Some referees are penalising it very strictly, others are not.

It's a very difficult one and very

hard for referees to interpret but it is also causing confusion and causing players to give away penalties when I don't feel they have been trying to lie all over the ball. They have just been attempting to secure possession.

Overall, I feel the tournament is building up nicely. We have not had any classic matches yet but the titanic games will start in the quarter-finals. The game I have enjoyed most so far was the Australian-Western Samoa match. It was played in dreadful conditions — the worst for rugby — yet some of the skills shown were wonderful. It was a great spectacle, a very, very good game and the Samoans were very unlucky not to win it.

World Cup rugby, page 38

Football League clubs agree to new idea

Players are now ready to play their full part

By PETER BALL

FOR the first time in the history of English professional football, the players are to be involved in the council chambers of the game. That was the most important development to come out of the meeting of 72 Football League clubs at Walsall yesterday as they came to terms with life after the launch of the Premier League next season.

The first meeting of the clubs since the split with the Premier League proved a radical and optimistic one. The clubs elected the League's three senior officers — Arthur Sandford, the chief executive, David Dent, the secretary, and Trevor Phillips, the commercial director — to form a planning committee to report back with proposals for a new constitution in a month's time.

That decision, and the mood of the meeting, will have taken some of the League's more virulent critics by surprise but suggestions that blood would be split yesterday — with Sandford a highly visible target — proved wide of the mark.

There were voices urging that the planning group should be formed by representatives of the clubs but Bill Fox, the League president, insisted that the management committee members had their hands full already. The alternative proposal, for the election of the group which negotiated the terms of the separation with the first division, founded for lack of support.

"We have a wide brief to consult and bring into the group anyone we want," Sandford, after the meeting in the conference centre at Walsall's stadium, said.

It is those powers which will enable Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), to at last play a significant role in preparing the game for the future.

Sandford's group will also consult a wide range of interested parties, including the two supporters' associations and the secretaries' and managers' association, but the PFA will be more deeply involved. "We see our involvement with the PFA as something special," Sandford said.

"Our involvement with the PFA is excellent, open and special. That's not meant to

devalue the role that these other organisations can play. But we expect the PFA to be greatly involved in our deliberations about how we go forward."

The plan is an exciting one. Football's leaders have traditionally been reluctant to allow players any say in the game's administration, unlike more forward-looking sports like golf and tennis.

It is ironic that it is the Football League, whose critics have maintained that it is incapable of change, which is taking this step. They may have set a trend which the Premier League will find hard to resist although the Football Association — the Premier League's patron — has always been the most obstinate in its resistance to allowing the professional voices a say.

At the FA offices in London yesterday, the Premier League clubs began the process of putting their competition in place for next season. The clubs agreed to set up "task forces" in a bid to establish the main framework by Christmas.

Rick Parry, the Premier League spokesman, said: "I was pleasantly surprised at the progress made. We had that feeling of togetherness again."

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, said: "The meeting was very encouraging and productive."

The separate "task forces" will concentrate on matters relating to a new rule book, the relationship with players and contracts, and the new League's commercial activities and its relationship with the FA. They will "lock themselves away for 48 hours" and report back to the clubs on November 14.

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Soft Dutch: John Emmen, of The Netherlands, scrutinising Frank Bruno yesterday as the Briton's first comeback match was announced

Bruno begins comeback slowly

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno sized up the first opponent of his comeback campaign, John Emmen, of The Netherlands, when they met in London yesterday. "He's a big, strong lad, nice looking. You've got to give him respect," was the verdict of the big man who returns to the ring at the Albert Hall, on November 20.

Emmen, who stands as straight as a guardsman and looks a bit like Jack Doyle in his guardsman days and a bit like a young Harry Secombe, and was seen as "a perfect gentleman" by John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, "a crowd pleaser" by Mickey Duff, the promoter, and "just

another soft touch" by the cynics.

Aged 32, he is a successful businessman (he owns a gym), a boxing commentator, a blown-up cruiserweight and the Benelux heavyweight champion, just the kind of opponent Bruno needs at this stage of his career, according to Morris.

Emmen was recommended by the ratings committee of the European Boxing Union. "They said he's a character and can fight and is entertaining and if Frank needs a test, John is the man," Morris said.

However, the Dutchman's record does not bear too close a scrutiny. He was out of the ring for one-and-a-half years, returning in 1990. In his six years as a professional he has had only 18 contests, won 16

and lost two. He was stopped in two rounds by the only big name he faced, Francesco Damiani, of Italy. Emmen was beaten by Johnny Held, who was beaten by Steve McCarthy, a British light heavyweight, who was stopped by Tony Wilson's mum, admittedly with the help of a shoe.

"Emmen could go three rounds or even five," Duff said. "I would not be shocked if it went ten."

It all depends on how sharp Bruno is. According to George Francis, his trainer, Bruno is looking good, having sparred 50 rounds in the last three weeks. He has been training with a 19-and-a-half stone American, Greg Payne, who used to work with Mike Tyson, but Bruno's timing has not quite returned.

"It's taking time for the timing to come back," Francis said. "But overall it's going well." Bruno said: "I've been through a lot of wranglings with my eye operation and people saying I shouldn't be doing it. I know it sounds crazy but I've got boxing in my blood. I've got to get it out of my system."

When asked if he would take the opportunity of "getting a few rounds under his belt" Bruno said: "I won't mess around. You can't take chances in the ring. I hope I'll be cool and calm and do the job properly."

Everybody's been challenging me: Holmes, Sweet D [Williams] and Lewis, but I've got to learn to walk before I can run. You never know after a few more fights a bout

against Lewis might come to light. I've got to get the rust out of my body. I've got this king-sized bed. I've chased the wife round it and couldn't catch her. Now I can."

Bruno has been working out at the gym of his former manager, Terry Lawless, the Royal Oak in Canning Town, but will shortly be going to a special training camp.

Bruno will share top-billing with a world title fight, John "The Beast" Mugabi, of Uganda, the former WBC super-welterweight champion managed by Mickey Duff, will fight Gerald McClellan, of Detroit, for the World Boxing Organisation middleweight title which was vacated recently by Chris Eubank.

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Cricket summit on South Africa

By RICHARD STREETON

SOUTH African hopes of playing in cricket's World Cup in Australasia early next year were revived yesterday when the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed that a special meeting on the subject has been arranged in Sharjah. It will take place on October 23, the day after the Commonwealth conference ends in Harare.

ICC officials were understandably reluctant to speculate on what Commonwealth government heads will decide in Zimbabwe. Almost certainly, though, they will hope that any communique issued by the political leaders will encourage support for South Africa, as the republic continues its attempts to introduce a new constitution.

Guidance from this level for the ICC could set the seal on the concessionary mood that seems likely to prevail at the Sharjah meeting. By calling the meeting, the ICC have met constitutional objections from West Indies, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to South Africa competing in the World Cup. These four countries, who are playing a one-day tournament in Sharjah at the time

of the ICC meeting, had insisted that the ICC decision last July — that South Africa should not take part in Australasia — could only be rescinded at another full meeting. Feelings ran strongly, with threats to withdraw themselves from the event bandied about. The point at issue, though, was always a procedural rather than a political one, something clarified yesterday by Madhav Rao Scindia, the Indian cricket board president. He said that since South Africa had been re-admitted to ICC full membership, there could be no objection to playing cricket with them.

South Africa will send four delegates to Sharjah. There is no escape from ironic twists in this saga: normally, representatives from both South Africa and Israel, an associate ICC member, would not find it easy to enter the United Arab Emirates and special dispensation will be needed. The UAE only became an associate member in 1990 but now find themselves hosts for the ICC's first full meeting outside London and one of its most important ever.

Azinger's anger spurs him

By RICHARD STREETON

PAUL Azinger opened his defence of the BMW International Open yesterday by sharing the lead with Sandy Lyle, but the American believes he should not even be playing in Munich.

After shooting a seven-under-par 65, Azinger said: "I can't understand what Payne Stewart or I am doing here. We should be in the Dunhill Cup team at St Andrews."

"He is the US Open champion and I am ranked ninth in the world after playing with a shoulder injury this season. I can't work out from what criteria they pick the team."

Azinger, aged 31, from Florida, played near flawless golf to record seven birdies and looked sure to hold the overnight lead alone until Lyle rolled in a 30-footer at the last to join him.

Lyle said playing with Azinger and the European Ryder Cup team member, David Gillford, who scored a 67, had lifted him after three ten-foot putts failed to drop early in his round, leaving him one over par.

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Fifa takes steps towards banning the back-pass

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

COMMENT

FIFA, the world's governing body in football, is to consider banning one of the most tiresome of time-wasting tactics. Should the proposal be accepted at the next international board meeting, in Wales on May 30, passes back to the goalkeeper will no longer be a legal method of frustrating the opposition, as well as spectators.

The idea was tested during the under-17 world championships in Italy last summer and proved to be a success, according to Andreas Herron, a FIFA spokesman. He confirmed yesterday that the new rule, which would require the approval of at least six of the eight members of the board, would be introduced at the start of next season.

In principle, the step is laudable. Anything done to discourage the practice, which was one of the contributory factors to the tedium of last summer's negative World Cup finals, would surely be well received. Those who attended the Rumbelows Cup tie at the Victoria Ground, on Wednesday night, for instance, would have been infuriated by Liverpool. In the closing half-hour, they chose to defend a

proposal was what to do if it was brought in," he said. "I know that other managers would react in the same way. It is not difficult to see that you could just kick the ball behind the opposition's defence and then say to them 'Now get out of that!'."

"The intentions are good and everybody might applaud it and think that it is a terrific idea but they are missing the point. It is the same with the offside rule." It has been proposed that a team cannot be offside at a set piece taken from inside its own half.

"All I would do in that case," Wilkinson said, "is to get hold of players who could kick a ball 75 yards, buy no one who is under 6ft 4in and tell my team to send in a load of garrymen."

The game he is describing is an extension of the long-ball version practised by sides lacking quality. In other words, he is justifiably arguing that FIFA, in attempting to promote more attractive football, could inadvertently be designing a less sophisticated and unappealing product.

"The first thing I asked myself when I read about the

